MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 MAY 1982

Israeli-Syrian Air Battle

Israeli planes shot down two Syrian MiG's in a dogfight over Beirut, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio early on 25 May. He said all the Israeli aircraft, which had encountered the MiG's while on a routine flight, returned safely to base.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- Iranian forces succeeded in completely recapturing Khorramshahr after advancing into the city through its western entrance, according to an armed forces and Guards Corps communique carried by Tehran radio. A Tehran radio report said the Iranians entered the city after liberating the township of Vali-e Asr on the western side of Khorramshahr. More than 12,000 Iraqis, including hundreds of officers, were captured during the liberation of the city, Tehran radio's Arabic service subsequently reported.

Meanwhile, IRNA reported that three Iraqi planes were shot down over the Abadan area bringing the total downed since 30 April to 52. In other action, Iranian planes bombed an Iraqi troop concentration inside Iraq to the west of Kut al-Zayn and inflicted great losses, according to an armed forces communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

In a statement carried by INA, an Iraqi military spokesman announced that on 25 May Iraqi forces completed their "withdrawal operations" from Khorramshahr in the direction of the international border. The spokesman added that the Iraqis had begun their withdrawal and evacuation on 23 May. He observed that the basic task of the Iraqi forces outside of Iraq has been to destroy the largest possible Iranian force in order to prevent them from continuing their expansionist schemes against Iraq. What is important, he noted, is that over the past 20 months Iraqi forces have inflicted huge losses on the Iranians that will lead in the future to the destruction of Iran's military, economic and political capabilities.

According to a subsequent statement by an Iraqi military spokesman, 2,711 Iranians were killed on 25 May during fighting north of Khorramshahr, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported. The spokesman said Iranian forces launched a dawn attack on Iraqi units north of Khorramshahr but were forced to retreat after sustaining large losses. During their counterattack, the Iraqis managed to destroy most of the retreating Iranian force, the spokesman claimed.

Khomeyni Warning -- Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, in a message to the nation carried by Tehran radio following the liberation of Khorramshahr, warned neighboring and regional states "not to do anything to force the blessed Koran to ordain an obligation to confront you and for us to treat you in accordance with God's command." Khomeyni said because they are smaller and weaker states, the superpowers would not provide them the same amount of assistance as they did for the Iraqi president. He also advised them that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn would be of no benefit to them. Khomeyni further cautioned them that if they tried to revive either the Camp David or Fahd plans, "Islam would not allow us to remain silent."

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn has praised Egyptian President Mubarak for building a correct relationship with the Egyptian people. In a statement carried by the Cairo weekly MAY and reported by MENA, Saddam Husayn said patriotism, nationalism and wisdom demanded that Mubarak take the Sinai back because Egypt had "paid the price." The Sinai Multinational Force and Observers has become a fact, Husayn asserted, and is not a separate U.S. force because it is multinational. Paying tribute to the role and contribution of the 1.5 million Egyptians in Iraq, he welcomed cultural and economic exchange between Egypt and Iraq.

Syria

Ceausescu, Al-Faysal Visits -- Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu left Bucharest on an official visit to Syria, Bucharest radio reported early on 25 May. The previous day, President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who gave Al-Asad a message from King Khalid, Damascus radio reported.

Comment on Iraq -- The Iraqi people and army now have a golden opportunity to punish those who plunged Iraq into a war which serves the United States and Israel, according to an AL-BA'TH commentary reported by Damascus radio.

Steadfastness and Confrontation Front

At the end of their meeting in Algiers, foreign ministers of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front issued a communique which called for the consolidation of relations with "the friendly Iranian revolution" and rejected all maneuvers aimed at enlarging the Iran-Iraq war and introducing other parties into it, Algiers radio reported. Such maneuvers are aimed at justifying the Camp David accords and involving the region in a deadly war which will only benefit the Zionist enemy and imperialist forces, the communique added. It called on Arab countries to remain loyal to the Baghdad summit resolutions, which pledged Arab countries to break off relations with Egypt following the Camp David agreements. Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Talib Ibrahim likewise stressed the front's fundamental differences with the Camp David policy in a speech to the ministers broadcast by Algiers radio. He said the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war is an attrition of gigantic proportions and damages vast resources that should be deployed in the battle against Zionism and imperialism, which today are doubling their hostile activities in several areas of the Arab homeland.

PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi revealed after the meeting that a Steadfastness and Confrontation Front summit conference will be held in June, AFP reported.

Lebanon

After the car bomb attack on the French Embassy in which 11 people died, the French ambassador said France will maintain its presence in Lebanon but will make "extremely important decisions" concerning the embassy, AFP reported. He described the explosion as an act of war which cannot be attributed to anyone. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that a hitherto unknown organization called the "Free Nasirite Revolutionaries" contacted a news agency and claimed responsibility for the bombs in west Beirut.

Egypt

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali and National Democratic Party leader Mustafa Khalil will leave Cairo for Israel on 30 May to hold talks with Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, MENA reported.

Libya

Libya will not interfere in the struggle taking place in Chad and will not send forces there, JANA reported citing a responsible source in the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. The source said Libya is committed to the neutral position it has adopted toward Chad.

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NIGERIAN OIL ADVISER SATISFIED WITH OPEC DECISIONS

AB241133 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Nigeria's presidential adviser on petroleum and energy affairs, Malam Yahaya Dikko, said in Quito that he is satisfied with the outcome of the OPEC oil ministers conference which ended last Friday in the Ecuadorean capital. A NAN correspondent in Quito reports the ministers decided, among other things, to maintain a total production level of 17.5 million barrels per day, maintain the market price at $34 per barrel and to continue to monitor market behavior. OPEC assigned to Nigeria a production ceiling of 1.3 million barrels per day.

According to the minister, Nigeria will continue to sell her light crude oil at $35.50 per barrel.

CORRECTION TO NIGERIAN OIL OFFICIAL ON PRODUCTION

The following correction to the item entitled "Nigerian Oil Official on Raising Production," published in the 21 May Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT on page B 5, is supplied by Lagos NAN in English at 1325 GMT on 21 May: On page B 5, in the first line of the third paragraph, substitute the words "several delegates to the three-day conference, which opened yesterday, said that they were optimistic that" for the phrase [words indistinct].

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC SECRETARIAT ISSUES ANNIVERSARY STATEMENT

GF250643 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0552 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] Riyadh, 24 May (WAKH) -- The GCC General Secretariat praised the council's accomplishments during its first year. The most important accomplishment was formulating the council's broad foreign policy, which is based on its Arab and Islamic affiliations and on political neutrality in most cases.

In a statement issued today on the first anniversary of the establishment of the GCC, the GCC General Secretariat said: "The end of this year and the start of the next will witness tangible progress in the implementation of the economic cooperation agreement signed among the members last year that is aimed at coordinating policies among them in the fields of economy, commerce, oil, finance and currency."

The statement also highlights the council's role in attempting to halt the Iraqi-Iranian war in a manner securing the legitimate rights of both sides and restoring security and stability in the region.

The statement indicated that the council's states have also sought closer militaty cooperation among themselves, with the aim of preventing foreign threats to this vital region of the world through reliance on the intrinsic powers.

The General Secretariat announced in its statement that it proposed to the council's states a bill for a comprehensive security agreement. It said: "This bill will receive the understanding and support of all member states."

The statement said, "The council, which was established for the purpose of protecting security and stability and achieving economic integrity in the Gulf region," has started to lay down the first brick of a comprehensive security agreement.

KUWAIT

YAR PRIME MINISTER AL-'IRYANI ARRIVES 24 MAY

LD241016 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0906 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] YAR Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani met here this morning with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. Following the meeting, the Yemeni and Kuwaiti delegations held talks led on the Yemeni side by Dr al-'Iryani and on the Kuwaiti side by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah. No information on the topics of the two meetings was made available.

Dr al-'Iryani arrived here today from Doha. He said on arrival that he would be having talks on "a number of issues important to our two fraternal people and to the Arab nation, and on international problems of common interest in order to study the solutions required to remove the state of rupture and disunity from which the Arab nation suffers." He said this state has shown that "in the face of aggression, it subdued designs aimed at the central cause of the Arab nation -- usurped Palestine and the Arab territories -- and at security and stability in this strategically important region in the Arab world."

Meets With Heir Apparent

LD241716 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] At 1200 today, Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah as-Sabah received at the prime minister's office His Excellency Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani and the delegation accompanying him. Talks between the two countries began at 1215.

The Kuwaiti side was headed by Shaykh S'ad al-Abdallah and the Yemeni side by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani. The talks were attended on the Kuwaiti side by the deputy prime minister; the minister of foreign affairs; the minister of information; the minister of industry and trade; the acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs; the minister of electricity and water resources; the head of the accompanying delegation; the minister of education and a number of high-ranking officials from the prime minister's office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the Yemeni side the meeting was attended by the minister of electricity, water and sewage; the minister of foreign affairs; the minister of education; the minister of information and culture; and high-ranking officials in the visiting delegation. Ambassadors of both countries also attended.

The talks centered on bilateral relations, the means of strengthening them in various fields and other questions of mutual interest.

Makes Statement to KUNA

LD242204 Kuwait KUNA in English 1759 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 24 May (KUNA) -- Visiting North Yemeni Premier Dr. 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani said Monday his meeting with his highness the amir and the talks he held with His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah were within the framework of continued consultations between the two countries.

In a statement to KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY al-'Iryani, who is currently on a visit to Kuwait in the course of a Gulf tour began yesterday in Qatar, said his present visit had come as complementary to issues discussed during North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Kuwait some months ago and to continue discussions on bilateral issues along with other Arab and international developments.

He disclosed that the talks were successful and sincere and that viewpoints between the two sides were identical regarding various Arab and international issues.

Answering a question on current Arab disunity, he said this situation has been created by the Arabs themselves and said that the Arab-Arab dialogue is likely to be unsuccessful. North Yemen has always called for solving Arab differences and not to allow conflicting views to weaken the Arab unified stand toward their main causes, Al-'Iryani said. He added that his country has long ago called for the formation of a committee to settle dispute in order to solve inter-Arab problems.

Al-'Iryani cited three points for ironing out Arab fragmentation and restoring Arab consensus which are the restoration of normal diplomatic relations among all Arab states, halting information campaigns and restricting differences in viewpoints in a way that will not harm Arab national interests.

The absence of Arab consensus was the cause behind the suspension of Fes summit conference and in case that consensus had not been achieved there would be no purpose in determining a date to resume that forum, Al-'Iryani said. He explained that there is no sign in the Arab platform that things have changed in a way that would secure the success of that summit.

The formation of a committee to settle disputes is an important step to secure an Arab consensus and a unified Arab stand at any fresh summit, Al-'Iryani said.

As for the unity negotiations between the two parts of Yemen, the premier said those talks are getting along. He said the unity consitution was completed late last year by a specialised committee. The next step would be a meeting between the two Yemeni presidents to re-evaulate that constitution before passing it to the legislative councils of the two countries, Al-'Iryani said. He added that after a study of the constitution by the two councils, it would be subjected to a public referendum under the supervision of the Arab League as Tripoli 1972 agreement stipulated.

Commending on the calls for bringing Egypt back to the Arab fold, Al-'Iryani said North Yemen has no unilateral stand toward that issue. The decision of severing relations with Egypt had been taken by an Arab summit and any other shift from that decision should be taken by a summit.

Departs 25 May

LD250848 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 25 May (KUNA) -- YAR Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani has concluded his 1-day official visit to Kuwait. He left here today for home. He was seen off by Kuwaiti Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd 'Abdallah as-Sabah, with whom he held talks on bilateral relations and the current Arab situation.

OMAN

AMIR OF BAHRAIN ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT 24 MAY

Makes Statement

GF240942 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpts] Muscat, 24 May (WAKH) -- His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, arrived in Muscat this morning on an official 3-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

He was received on arrival by His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman and senior Omani officials. Official talks between his highness the amir and His Majesty Sultan Qabus are scheduled to begin this afternoon.

The amir of Bahrain expressed satisfaction over this visit, stressing the strong historical ties between Bahrain and Oman. He told correspondents on his arrival in Muscat: "Our meeting with Brother Sultan Qabus at this important stage for the Gulf region in particular and the Arab homeland in general is meant to bolster fraternal meetings among brothers, to exchange views and to define the appropriate steps to coordinate stands, unify ranks and to preserve the two countries' accomplishments."

He emphasized that these steps are part of the GCC strategy and that "further meetings and contacts will deepn the relations between the two countries to bring about their prosperity and development."

Shaykh 'Isa affirmed that "the security of the two countries is an indivisible part of the security of the region, which is trying by all means to preserve the security of future generations and to solidify the edifice we have constructed."

Talks With Sultan Qabus

GF241607 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpt] Muscat, 24 May (WAKH) -- A session of official talks between the Bahraini side, led by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and the Omani side, led by Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, was held in Muscat today.

On the Bahraini side, the session was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah; Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah; Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad; the prime minister's adviser for legal affairs, Mahmud al-'Alawi; and chief of the amiri court, Yusuf ad-Dawsari.

On the Omani side, it was attended by Fahd ibn Mahmud, deputy prime minister for legal affairs; Faysal ibn 'Ali, minister of national heritage and culture and chief of the mission of honor; Hamad ibn Hamud, minister of royal diwan affairs; Muhammad az-Zubayr, industry and commerce minister; Badr ibn Su'ud ibn Harib, interior minister; 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawas, information minister; Yusuf al-'Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs and Muhammad ad-Dhahab, Omani ambassador to Bahrain.

More on Official Talks

GF241921 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpts] Official talks were held today in Muscat between the Omani side, led by His Majesty Sultan Qabus, and the Bahraini side, led by the amir of fraternal Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, who is currently visiting Oman.

Following the round of talks, his majesty the sultan and his dear guest met behind closed doors and then exchanged a declaration of the first order. Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, announced that the two leaders discussed their strong bilateral relations and reviewed issues dealing with the GCC. They also discussed the best means to strengthen and support the progress of the GCC in addition to the means of developing cooperation among the six GCC member countries. Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah noted that the two leaders also discussed all aspects of the general situation in the Arab world and the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war. He added that his majesty the sultan and his highness the amir of fraternal Bahrain reaffirmed the need to end the war which has lasted a long time. They also stressed the need to establish good relations among the region's countries based on understanding and mutual respect.

In a statement to radio and television correspondents following the conclusion of the round of talks, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs noted the talks dealt with the future of the Gulf countries and their capabilities in terms of finding a better means of developing the concept of Arab solidarity among Arab countries. He added that the issue of resumption of relations between the Arab countries and the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt was one of the subjects discussed during the meeting, due to the importance of Egypt to Arab solidarity.

In addition, Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah expressed pleasure at this historic and important meeting between the two Arab leaders. He added that an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding prevailed during the talks. His Highness Shaykh Muhammad noted that his majesty the sultan expressed his satisfaction at the visit of his brother the amir of Bahrain to the sultanate because the relations between the sultanate and the State of Bahrain are old and historic.

He pointed out that the talks between the leaders confirm these relations and greatly support the progress of the Gulf. Concluding his statement His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak expressed the pleasure of his highness the amir of Bahrain on his visit to the sultanate. He told the radio and television correspondents these meetings will be repeated, and that they will be in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Bahraini Minister Comments

GF240946 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad said Bahraini-Omani relations are fraternal and cannot be described in words. He expressed pride in the economic and social development and accomplishments that have been achieved in Oman under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qabus. He said: The Omani achievements are Bahraini achievements.

In a statement to the newspapers 'UMAM and AL-WATAN, the Bahraini information minister said the country is also proud of Oman's ability to cope with the political move the region is undergoing; Bahrain feels that Oman is among the region's vigilant countries on the Gulf's gate and that Oman is the best protector for this gate.

On the GCC, Al-Mu'ayyad said: The GCC is the fruit of 10 years of joint cooperation among the region's countries; cooperation in joint Gulf security and defense issues is the GCC leaders' primary concern in facing the region's problems and those who bear grudes toward its stability.

The Bahrain information minister said: It is in the interest of the Arab nation to be united; any call to unify Arab ranks must be welcomed because it is a national call springing from national causes. He said: All the countries of the region believe Egypt's return to the Arab nation is a basic and important thing because Egypt is a strength to the region and to the Arab issue in particular.

QATAR

MORE ON YAR PRIME MINISTER AL-'IRYANI VISIT

Gives Statement to QNA

GF240735 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0550 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Doha, 23 May (WAKH) -- YAR Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani has lauded the GCC's role in laying down the bases of cooperation and coordination among the GCC countries.

In a statement to QNA, Dr al-'Iryani said: The GCC was established to promote coordination and cooperation among the group of homogeneous and identical Arab countries. It was established within the Arab League Charter and any move within the Arab League Charter deserves our blessings and our wishes for its success.

On Gulf security, Dr al-'Iryani said he believes the region's countries are best able to defend their security and stability, and that cooperation among them is the cornerstone for preserving their security and sovereignty.

The YAR prime minister called for exerting all possible efforts to stop the bloodshed between Iraq and Iran and to peacefully halt hostilities between them. He expressed the conviction that the At-Ta'if Islamic summit conference's Good Offices Committee is the most proper means of reaching a settlement satisfactory to the two disputing countries.

Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani emphasized the need for Arab solidarity to defend Arab independence and sovereignty against any foreign threat, noting that without this solidarity Arabs cannot defend themselves internally. He said: The issue of Arab solidarity is at the top of the list of Arab concerns and the phenomenon of fragmentation in the Arab homeland still prevails.

On the Fes Arab summit, the YAR prime minister said that so far no change has affected "inter-Arab" relations to justify the reconvening of the Fes summit. He expressed the hope that Arab disputes will be resolved, Arab air will be cleared, media campaigns will be halted and diplomatic relations among all Arab countries will be reestablished. He said: Unless these stipulations are achieved, in my view, the Fes summit will face the same fate that led to its postponement.

On Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, the YAR prime minister said: The decision to freeze and sever relations with Egypt was made in an Arab summit and its return must be decided upon in an Arab summit. He indicated that any attempt to reestablish relations with Egypt unilaterally will lead to more Arab fragmentation and division and will not contribute to the realization of the Arab nation's objectives.

On Zaire's reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Israel, the YAR prime minister said: This is a grave matter, and we must view its dimensions seriously. The Arab world must adopt a unified stand to show others that the relationship with the Zionist enemy is hostile and damaging to the Arab nation. Dr Al-'Iryani expressed the conviction that Zaire's action was made in order to check the Arab pulse and if no measures and decisive stands are taken against it, other countries will follow suit. Therefore, we hope the Arab nation and officials will understand how grave this decision is and will adopt appropriate measures against it.

Dr al-'Iryani lauded the outcome of his talks with Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and with Heir Apparent and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani. He described these talks as constructive, fruitful and positive as regards the identical views of the two sides on all Arab and international issues.

He said his talks with the Qatari amir and the heir apparent dealt with bilateral relations and the region's situation in general and were within the framework of continuous consultations between the brothers in the two countries. He said they complemented the talks held between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani during the president's recent visit to Qatar.

Dr al-'Iryani described relations between Qatar and the YAR as based on sincere fraternity, deep amity and strong historical bonds.

Makes Statement to AL-'ARAB

GF241655 Doha QNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpts] Doha, 24 May (QNA) -- YAR Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani has announced that the national consultation on the projected constitution for the union of the two parts of Yemen will take place soon, under the supervision of the Arab League and after the decision of the presidents of the two Yemens.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB published today, Dr al-'Iryani referred to the GCC and said: The YAR always blesses any cooperation between two or more Arab countries in the framework of the Arab League and regards it a positive effort for a comprehensive Arab unity.

Referring to the Iraqi-Iranian war, Dr al-'Iryani said his country calls for an end to the war and for negotiation and acceptance of mediation, as decided by the Islamic summit in At-Ta'if, that guarantees the rights of the disputing parties.

Referring to the resumption of the Arab summit in Fes, Dr al-'Iryani hoped the Fes summit can be held under more positive circumstances and conditions and with a better guarantee of success.

Foreign Minister's Statement

GF241558 Doha QNA in Arabic 1212 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Doha, 24 May (QNA) -- The Qatari and YAR sides have declared their complete satisfaction with the convergence of their views on all issues discussed during the visit of YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani to Qatar. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive results of the visit.

In a press statement today, Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani said the Qatari-YAR talks, that were attended by senior officials of the two countries, dealt with ways of strengthening and developing bilateral relations, the current situation in the Gulf region in particular, the latest Arab developments in general and international issues of mutual interest.

The press statement says Al-'Iryani extended an invitation from YAR President 'Ali Abdallah Salih to Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani to visit the YAR, and that the amir has accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit at the earliest opportunity. Al-'Iryani also extended an invitation to Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, to visit the YAR. Shaykh Hamad accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Al-'Iryani left Doha for Kuwait today following a 24-hour visit to Qatar. He was seen off at the airport by the heir apparent and minister of defense and senior civilian and military officials.

In a departure statement, Dr al-'Iryani said his visit to Qatar was fruitful and yielded many positive and excellent results. He said views were identical on the issues that were discussed, whether on the bilateral, pan-Arab or international level. He said the amir of Qatar showed great understanding for the message of Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president and commander in chief of the YAR Armed Forces.

The YAR prime minister said his talks with Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, were extremely successful. He said the talks "underlined our identity of views on the ways to tackle the important issues that were discussed, as well as the need to work in unison to expand and deepen cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries to serve national and pan-Arab interests and to continue Qatar's role in supporting construction and development in the YAR -- which always makes us grateful to our brothers in Qatar, the Qatari amir, government and people, for the generous fraternal assistance and constant support they extend to us."

UAE

GOVERNMENT SEVERS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE

GF240935 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 May (WAKH) -- The UAE Government today decided to sever diplomatic relations with Zaire because of its reestablishment of diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy and its decision to open its embassy in occupied Jerusalem.

A statement issued by the UAE Cabinet today said the Zaire Government's decision contravenes the OAU resolutions and the resolutions of the Afro-Arab summit held in 1977, to which Zaire committed itself.

Cabinet Statement

GF241140 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 May 82

[Text of statement issued by the UAE Cabinet on 24 May 1982]

[Text] The UAE Government expressed its deep regret and denunciation of Zaire's decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy and its approval to open an embassy in occupied Jerusalem. The UAE Government also affirms that this decision contravenes the resolutions of the OAU and the resolutions of the 1977 Afro-Arab summit attended by Zaire and to whose resolutions Zaire expressed commitment.

The reasons for African countries severing relations with Israel still exist: the continuation of Israel's occupation of the Arab Palestinian territories and its denial of the Palestinian people's firm rights, particularly their rights to self-determination and to establishing their independent state on their homeland. It is regrettable that this decision came at a time when the Israeli aggression against the citizens of the occupied Arab territories became fiercer and at a time when Israel's intentions to annex these lands to the Zionist entity became clear. The decision is also a stab in the back of Afro-Arab solidarity in the struggle against imperialism and apartheid, particularly in Africa, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. It is also a defiance of the will of the African and Arab peoples in their struggle against imperialism and all forms of apartheid, particularly in Africa, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories and a clear violation of the UN and world's community resolutions.

The UAE Government reiterates its commitment and adherence to the Arab League, Islamic summit conference, and UN resolutions on Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem. It believes the Zaire Government's decision contravenes all these resoltuions. Therefore, the Government of the UAE decided to sever its diplomatic relations with Zaire on 24 May 1982.

ITALY'S ANDREOTTI MEETS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

GF231305 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad today received Giulio Andreotti, chairman of the Interparliamentary Union's political commission and chairman of the Italian Parliament's foreign relations committee, and the delegation accompanying him, which is currently visiting the country.

Meets With President Zayid

GF241357 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received at the Al-Jid residence today Giulio Andreotti, the Interparliamentary Union's political commission chairman and the Italian Parliament's foreign relations committee chairman, who is currently visiting the UAE.

A number of issues of common interest and means of bolstering cooperation between the UAE and Italy were discussed during the meeting, which was attended by Shaykh Sultan Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, Supreme Council member and ruler of Ash-Shariqah; Hilal Lutah, chairman of the National Federal Council; Ahmad Khalifas as-Suwaydi, representative of his highness the president; Hamudah ibn 'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs; and Antonio Napilitano, Italian ambassador to the UAE.

BRIEFS

ILLEGAL RESIDENTS -- Police have arrested 40 Pakistani and Indian citizens for staying illegally in the country. [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 May 82 p 3 GF]

ARAB-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION MEETING -- His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, Supreme Council member and ruler of Ash-Shariqah, yesterday presided over a meeting of the administrative body of the Arab-American Association. The meeting was held at Shaykh Sultan's palace in Ash-Shariqah. Shaykh 'Abdullah al-Qasbi, deputy chairman of the association, said the meeting decided to change the name of the association to "The Organisation of Arab and American Peoples." It reviewed the activities and efforts of the association in the United States to counter the false and misleading Zionist propaganda. The association also decided to participate in a number of political and cultural conferences in the United States. The meeting also approved a report on the association's budget for 1981. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 22 May 82 p 1 GF]

PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE ON ZAIRE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

EA241646 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] A statement made by a responsible source in the Foriegn Ministry says the PDRY has been following with much concern the recent feverish moves by imperialist and Zionist circles in the African arena aimed at paralyzing the effectiveness of the African boycott of the Zionist entity and bypassing the OAU decision condemning the capitulatory Camp David accords in an attempt to get support for it. The statement went on to say that the PDRY had noted that these circles had, by diverse means, succeeded [words indistinct] which was made clear in the recent decision by Zaire to restore diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity and open an embassy in occupied Jerusalem.

The source expressed Democratic Yemen's disapproval of this shameful stand taken by Zaire, which must be considered as (?a rare) stab in the back for the Afro-Arab liberation struggle against imperialism and Zionism. The [word indistinct] does not express, however, the official stand of the African brothers and must be considered as [words indistinct] and against the Arab people. It is also a challenge to the clear OAU decisions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and in support of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people to return to their home and set up their own state under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

MUBARAK DISCUSSES VICE PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE, NDP

NC232300 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stated that when he chooses a person for the post of vice president, he will not keep it secret but will announce it and introduce him to the people. President Mubarak said he expects the new vice president to work by his side and to share in shouldering responsibilities. He said he must have confidence in his capabilities, patriotism and loyalty to his country and people. He must also rise to the level of events and be capable of making the right decision at the right time.

In a statement to be published in tomorrow's edition of the weekly newspaper MAY, President Mubarak said there is no place close to him for evil advisers, saying that he accepts those who express their opinion and those with opposing views. He said he listens to all voices, advice and proposals before making a decision.

President Mubarak said there is no comprehensive transfer or complete change regarding governors. There is, however, an integrated program of action each governor is required to implement. In light of what is implemented, an assessment will be made, gradually and on an individual basis.

In his statement to MAY, President Mubarak denied he was forced to accept the leadership of the National Democratic Party [NDP]. He pointed out that following the death of President as-Sadat, NDP leaders were not required to search for a party leader and Egypt did not need the differences this search might create. Thus, the only solution was to accept the leadership of the party.

On the expectation of changes in the NDP, President Mubarak asserted it is not important whether the changes will be on the narrowest or widest scale. The primary aim of change is to be for the fittest. He said that as leader of the NDP party he acts as he does as president of the republic, and does not allow deviation, opportunism or exploitation within the party. He expressed his welcome of criticism, saying that he who works hard, toils and performs his duty will not be shaken by any criticism aimed at him.

NDP DELEGATION TO VISIT ISRAEL, MEET WITH LABOR

NC242259 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) -- Dr Mustafa Khalil, deputy leader of the National Democratic Party [NDP], and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will leave Cairo for Israel on Sunday to hold a dialogue with the Israeli Labor Party led by Shim'on Peres.

The NDP delegation, which will begin the dialogue immediately upon arrival in Tel Aviv, will also include Political Bureau members Kamal ash-Shadhili and Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah.

PRC SPECIAL ENVOY HE YING ARRIVES 23 MAY

NC231854 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] He Hing, the PRC Government's special envoy, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 4-day visit during which he will give President Husni Mubarak a message from PRC leaders. He will meet tomorrow with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

Talks between He Ying and Ambassador 'Umran ash-Shafi'i, Foreign Ministry undersecretary, will begin at the Foreign Ministry tomorrow morning. The talks will deal with developments in the Middle East in light of the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, bilateral relations and the means of strengthening them in various fields.

Official Talks Begin

NC241258 Cairo MENA in English 1215 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) -- Official talks between Egypt and the People's Republic of China started today under the co-chairmanship of Foreign Undersecretary 'Umran ash-Shafi'i and visiting counsellor of the Chinese Foreign Ministry He Ying.

The talks dealt with international issues of joint interest, especially the Middle East crisis and the Asian causes. Discussions also focussed on the peace process and Egypt's efforts to bring about an overall and just peace in the area. The two sides also discussed joint cooperation in the technical, economic and trade fields in the light of the talks held by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali during his Beijing visit in September last year.

The Chinese envoy, a former deputy foreign minister, is a prominent political figure in China.

Meets With 'Ali

NC241555 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1532 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with the PRC Government's special envoy, He Ying. They reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East and the international situation in which they have a mutual interest. They also exchanged views on the peace process and discussed the means to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Remarks After Meetings

NC242015 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] He Ying, special envoy of the PRC Government, described his talks today with senior officials in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry as important and useful and said they were held in a (?friendly) atmosphere. The PRC envoy expressed the Chinese people's joy over the return of the Sinai to Egypt, describing this return as a great victory for the Egyptian people. He Ying said the PRC believes that it is in the basic interest of Egypt that it should be strong and prosperous. He Ying emphasized his country's support for Egypt's just causes of preserving its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said he has a personal message for President Husni Mubarak from the Chinese leaders.

AL-AHRAM URGES SUPPORT FOR IRAQ IN WAR WITH IRAN

NC211400 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 21 May 82

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 May (MENA) -- The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the omens of danger looming on the Iraqi-Iranian battlefront have prompted Arabs to agree to confront the situation and prepare for it instead of wasting precious time and costly efforts discussing the Arabs' return to Egypt or Egypt's return to the Arabs. The reason is that the imminent danger takes precedence over discussing self-evident matters.

An article by AL-AHRAM's chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' says Egypt does not accept that its return to the Arab world should lead to "others" leaving by the backdoor. This is because Egypt wants to add to rather than deflate the Arabs' credit. Furthermore, Egypt wants to back Arab solidarity against dangers, not weaken it further by returning to the Arab fold.

The paper demands [taalabat] we now turn all our attention to the Iranian-Iraqi battlefront so we will be able to contain the consequences -- which are detrimental to Arab security -- before they can aggravate and add another calamity to our record of disasters.

The reason is that Iraq's downfall will naturally lead to the successive downfall of the Gulf states, which will affect Arab strategic security and, ultimately, Egypt's strategic security.

The writer elucidates, saying: Egypt's support for Iraq stems from our full understanding of these dangers, particularly now that the balance has been tipped against Iraq. Should it occur, Iraq's collapse would for many years negatively affect the Arab nation's ability as well as Egypt's efforts and struggle to resolve the Palestinian issue and the hopes pinned on settling Lebanon's bloody problem.

Nafi' makes it clear that as of last year, Egypt's attitude toward Iraq has not stopped at just supplying it with ammunition. This attitude went beyond this point to the extent of making a great sacrifice -- its importance will be revealed by history -- when Egypt gave Iraq weapons drawn from the Egyptian Armed Forces' strategic reserves. This is a principled stance dictated to Egypt first by its affinity with the Arab world and then by its farsighted realization of the dangers underlying the Gulf war.

Ibrahim Nafi' affirms that Egypt will continue to give arms to Iraq so it can organize its forces and check the Iranian offensive. Nafi' says: Had we been in a position to extend more aid, we wouldn't have hesitated to do so. However, we are governed by strategic and economic factors known to us all. Had Egypt, in the past few years, received adequate backing instead of estrangement, Egypt would now have been able to forestall new Arab calamities.

Dealing with the urgent necessities imposed by the present state of affairs, the writer explains that it is imperative to streamline all efforts to support Iraq to enable it to stand its ground in defending its country. It is imperative that some Arab quarters that support Iran understand the seriousness of the crime they are perpetrating against the Arab nation and change their stance to one of supporting Iraq in defending its border. Furthermore, the writer delineates the significance of putting pressure on the two superpowers to induce them to pressure the two conflicting parties to end the war and return to the international border. He also notes the importance of prompting the two superpowers to guarantee Iran's adherence to nonintervention in the domestic affairs of its neighbors, to stop the spilling of Arab blood in this conflict and to halt the depletion of Arab funds and resources.

AL-AKHBAR VIEWS GULF WAR, ARAB ROLE, AUTONOMY

NC222313 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2222 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA) -- Cairo's newspaper AL-AKHBAR affirms that current events and developments in the Middle East have shown that the Egyptian policy, stemming from its will, adheres to shouldering its responsibility of leading the Arab world by virtue of destiny and history.

In an editorial to be published on Sunday, the paper cites Egypt's support of Iraq in its war against Iran and says although Egypt is opposed to this war, in which Muslims are being killed, it has adhered to the principle of protecting and caring for the Arab nation by responding to Iraqi requests for ammunition and arms.

Under the headline "Egypt, the Leader, the Principled and the Exemplar," the paper notes in this respect what Dr Usamah al-Baz, chief of President Husni Mubarak's office for Political Affairs, declared after the president's meeting with the political group today. Al-Baz said Egypt continues to supply Iraq with its requirements for arms and ammunition and that Egyptian policy is interested in the strategic security of the Arab area in general and the Gulf area in particular. The paper points out Dr al-Baz's statements on Egypt's policy confirm Egypt's dealing with the events is characterized with firm stands that would not change, whatever the circumstances may be, and this fully applies to the Palestine question.

AL-AKHBAR says Egypt has repeatedly declared, in connection with the Palestine question, its objective from the autonomy negotiations is to put the Palestinians on the beginning of the road to obtain their legitimate rights, and it does not speak for the Palestinians nor does it stand on their behalf in these negotiations; rather it provides them with the necessary basis for dealing with their cause on clear foundations, allowing them to govern themselves and determine their future. The paper notes in this respect, as Dr al-Baz declared today, that Egypt is seeking to reactivate the autonomy negotiations to arrive at an agreement ending the Israeli military rule so the Palestinians can assume the responsibility of governing themselves in accordance with the Camp David agreement. The paper explains this Egyptian stand regarding the Palestine question follows the full liberation of the Sinai and is a clear answer to what had been said about Egypt abandoning the Palestine question after completing this mission.

Concluding its commentary, the paper affirms that Egypt, which has been the pulsating heart of the Arab nation since the dawn of history, will uphold its position as a strong barrier against any aggression to which the nation may be subjected and will assume its historical and leadership responsibility.

GHALI ON EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST

NC230942 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said Egypt expects the European Community to play a more active role in Middle East diplomacy and economic cooperation. This is contained in an interview Dr Ghali granted to the Belgian newspaper LA LIBRE BELGIQUE published today.

Dr Ghali said this role is manifested in drawing international attention to the Palestinian problem and in influencing public opinion and political parties in Israel. He added that the European Community must also work to give the Middle East crisis priority and not secondary importance in the international political arena.

Dr Ghali said he expects the European Community to contribute toward achieving mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. He added that priority must be given to the Palestinian problem, since true peace in the area cannot be achieved without its settlement.

'ALI RECEIVES BREZHNEV MESSAGE ON AFRICA DAY

NC242018 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Edmond Chahnazarian, Soviet charge d'affaires in Cairo this morning. He handed 'Ali the text of Leonid Brezhnev's message addressed to African states on Africa Day.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT REPORTS RIOT OVER BURST PIPES

PM240809 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 May 82 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau report: "Clashes Between Police and the Public Over Burst Pipes"]

[Excerpt] Cairo -- Burst sewage pipes in the Misr al-Qadimah [old city of Cairo] on Wednesday led to limited clashes between central security forces and inhabitants. The clashes lasted more than 5 hours.

The incident began when residents of Misr al-Qadimah took to the streets in groups the day before yesterday to protest the failure to repair damaged pipes in the area, after sewage flooded houses and streets. The sewage, centimeters deep, turned the streets into lake and brought traffic to a halt.

The authorities responsible tried to calm the people by telling them the damage would be repaired immediately, but the people paid no attention and began shouting slogans urging those responsible be brought to account, calling for the downfall of Hasan al-Jamal, their own representative in the People's Assembly, and blaming the press for ignoring their problems.

In view of the deteriorating situation and to prevent the incident from spreading to neighboring areas, central security units encircles the area and used tear gas bombs to disperse the demonstrators who in turn threw stones at them and started some fires on the main street. The central security forces eventually managed to bring the situation under control and restore calm at 2300.

The Hulwan-Bab al-Luq train service was disrupted and there was severe traffic congestion as a result of the incident. A number of people were detained on charges of inciting the public.

Meanwhile, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned the socialist public prosecutor has begun summoning a number of former governors in connection with violations they committed when they were governors. They are Ibrahim Lutfi, former governor of Al-Jizah, who is said to have seized land belonging to the agrarian reform department and committed other financial offenses when he was chairman of the Nasir Social Bank; Ahmad Hilmi Badr, former governor of Suez, who is accused of exploiting his position and distributing apartment deeds in King Faysal City in Suez in violation of current laws; and 'Abd al-Munsif Hazin, former governor of Al-Minufiyah, who is accused of offering land for sale at reduced prices.

Water Main Floods Muski Area

WA242000 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 May 82 p 14

[Article by Ahmad Nasr al-Din]

[Text] The water main at the intersection of Port Sa'id and Al-Azhar Streets in the Muski quarter burst yesterday afternoon at exactly 1605 during work in connection with building an elevated bridge in the area. Water flooded streets surrounding the eruption. The water entered shops with frightening force while people were watching a televised soccer match between Al-Zamalik and Al-Ahli.

The deputy governor of Cairo, the chief of the [Muski] quarter and the director of the water and drainage utilities were informed and traffic was diverted from the surrounding streets. Eight pumps were moved in immediately to remove the water, which had risen to about 70 centimeters. It would have reached 1.5 meters if not for the rapid and effective operation of the pumps.

At 1800, following the end of the soccer match, Cairo assistant security director Maj Gen 'Ali Nur al-Din, who had been following efforts to pump out the water, which continued until 2130, went to the scene of the rupture. The pumps continued working until huge quantities of water had been removed. Civil defense forces assisted citizens in bailing out water from inside shops last night until the situation returned to normal.

NPUG CALLS FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

PM241303 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 19 May 82 p 1

[Unattributed report: "NPUG Demands Release of Detainees and Quashing of Political Cases"]

[Text] The National Progressive Unionist Grouping (NPUG) Party declared at the end of its second political session of the party's general congress that the party's resolute opposition to Camp David and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is not due to the clause regarding withdrawal from the Sinai but because of "the high cost that was paid and is still being paid in return for withdrawal." A statement issued by the conference said, "Foreign forces stationed for an indefinite period of time cannot be regarded as neutral. These forces consist mainly of U.S. and NATO forces which it cannot be denied are connected with Western plans to dominate the area. Our party will continue to adhere to its principled stand of rejecting the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the restrictions on the Egyptian will it represents. We and all the nationalist forces will continue our total boycott of any dealing with Israel in any field."

The statement added: "We believe the major danger facing the Arab nation is the danger of the escalating Israeli aggression and threats. The increasing talk about Gulf security at present is merely a calculated attempt to distract attention from this growing danger and a pursuance of U.S. policies aimed at creating tension in international relations with the Soviet Union everywhere in the hope of imposing its hegemony on the entire area. This is contrary to the policy of nonalignment and to the affirmation of Egypt's Arab and Islamic affiliation, principles the new Egyptian president has often underlined."

Regarding the question of [domestic] change and the current controversy over it, the statement said: "We are now faced with a vicious onslaught by the parasitic forces that loudly reject any change, even partial or procedural. In the absence of a reaction by the masses these forces are trying to switch to the offensive in order to preserve their positions in decisionmaking."

The statement demanded the lifting of restrictions preventing the masses from moving and acting spontaneously, restrictions that are incorporated in the emergency law, the law of ethics and the law on parties. The statement stressed the need to release all political detainees, abolish the state of emergency and quash all political cases and investigations dating before 6 October 1981.

The party called for abandoning the so-called open-door economic policy and the measures adopted as a consequence of it since this is an urgent national need. The statement said: "The self-reliance policy necessitates the public sector play a leading role and the laws and decisions that sought to dismantle the sector be abolished." The statement demands blocking the way to parasitic activities, encouraging the productive role of the private sector and protecting it from foreign competition, protecting the agricultural cooperative movement against laws undermining it and preserving the gains of the workers and the peasants and all the popular classes.

The party called for alleviating the hardship from which the masses are suffering and which is daily becoming more acute due to the increasing prices of goods and services to the extent that life for an increasing number of people is becoming unbearable.

ARMY BATTLES IRANIANS TO CONTROL KHORRAMSHAHR

Communique No 721

JN241657 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1601 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May (INA) -- The Iraqi forces stationed in Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] continue to fight the Iranian enemy forces, dealing them the fiercest blows and inflicting the gravest losses in life and equipment on them. This was confirmed in Communique No 721 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command. The general command asserted that for the 3d consecutive day Iraqi forces have been waging the most ferocious battles in the Al-Muhammarah region.

The communique added that the Al-Mansur forces and those supporting them continue their gallant advance toward their designated targets and they are now destroying the enemy units as they advance.

The communique continued, saying the Iranian forces last night and today sustained very grave losses of dead and wounded; many were taken prisoner. A large number of enemy tanks, vehicles and various types of weapons were destroyed during the battles which were still raging when this communique was prepared. All day Iraqi fighter planes and helicopters resumed their violent attacks on the enemy's columns and units in the Al-Muhammarah region, scoring direct and effective hits. The Iraqi fighter planes flew 178 combat missions while the helicopters flew 35 missions today. The following is the text of communique No 721:

Communique No 721 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily from those who transgress we shall exact due retribution. [Koranic verse]

For the 3d consecutive day our valiant forces have been waging the fiercest and most ferocious battles against the spiteful Iranian enemy forces in the Al-Muhammarah region. Our units stationed in the town continue to fight the enemy, dealing to its forces the fiercist blows and inflictiig the gravest losses in life and equipment on them. The heroic Al-Mansur forces and those supporting them continue their gallant advance toward their designated targets and they are not destroying the enemy units as they advance. During the battles last night and today, our valiant forces inflicted grave losses on the tyrannical enemy, killing and wounding a large number and taking many prisoners. Our forces destroyed a large number of enemy tanks, vehicles and various types of weapons. The battles were still raging when this communique was prepared.

Our fighter planes and helicopters continued their violent raids on the enemy columns and units in the Al-Muhammarah region, scoring direct and effective hits, destroying a large number of enemy tanks, vehicles, equipment and various types of weapons, and killing many enemy personnel. Our fighter planes flew 178 combat missions while the helicopters flew 35 missions today. All our fighter planes and helicopters returned safely to base.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 May 1982

Strong Military Position

JN241921 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1847 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May (INA) -- An INA correspondent who is in a forward position on the frontlines in the southern sector has witnessed the battles being waged by Iraqi forces stationed in Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr]. In an urgent dispatch from the battlefield, the correspondent asserted the Iraqi forces are not being besieged, but they are carrying out effective combat missions against the Iranian enemy forces, using all types of weapons to crush the Iranian war machine which has been in a difficult situation for the past 3 days.

The INA correspondent added the sound of explosions in the enemy armor, vehicles and stockpiles of hardware can be heard clearly in the Al-Muhammarah area. Columns of fire can be seen rising from the direct hits of the Iraqi fighter planes, missiles and artillery.

The correspondent explained he has seen the Iraqi infantry combing a position where the Iranian enemy tried to hide to avoid the violent blows. The correspondent asserted the Iraqi forces are in a strong military position and are moving with great efficiency and capability in accordance with their set plan.

Other reports by the INA war correspondents from positions near Al-Muhammarah indicate the enemy vehicles and armor are now in a state of confusion as a result of the Iraqi Air Force's strong blows. These reports assert that when Iranian losses for the past 3 days are announced, observers will be amazed.

Heavy Losses Inflicted

JN250729 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 May 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 May (INA) -- A correspondent of the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH in the southern sector has said yesterday he witnessed a clash with light weapons and hand-grenades between Iraqi fighters and enemy troops in an area north of the city of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr].

In a dispatch sent yesterday, he added that until a late hour yesterday the Iraqi forces were dealing painful blows to the Iranian enemy's personnel and equipment, inflicting heavy losses on them.

He said the heroic Al-Mansur forces yesterday fought in a unique manner and managed to destroy the enemy force and force it to retreat, leaving behind a large number of dead and wounded as well as several burned-out tanks and vehicles. He indicated that fierce fighting was still going on at the time of this dispatch last night.

He said for the 3d consecutive day the artillery men continued to direct artillery fire at the enemy forces, which consisted of infantry supported by tanks and artillery. He added the Iraqi artillery inflicted large losses on the enemy and thus enabled our armor and infantry troops to deal the hardest possible blows at the enemy forces.

The correspondent of the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH has reported that yesterday the antiaircraft defenses managed to deny the battleskies to enemy planes. He said the Iraqi fighters were vigilant in defense of the homeland's skies.

In a dispatch from its team in Al-Muhammarah, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH said the combat momentum which was perpeturated by our forces in their battles at the Al-Muhammarah axis yesterday was very effective in inflicting large losses on the enemy and in forcing it to abandon its positions.

The newspaper stressed that the heroic Al-Mansur forces yesterday continued to launch successful attacks on the enemy inflicting very heavy losses on them.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed the coordinated fire support of the various fighting corps of the Iraqi forces played its role in accordance with the command's plan in destroying the Iranian enemy forces.

Forces Withdraw

JN250737 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0723 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA) -- A military spokesman has announced Iraqi forces have this morning completed their withdrawal operations from the city of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] in the direction of the international border.

The military spokesman added Iraqi forces began their withdrawal and evacuation of Al-Muhammarah the day before yesterday. He said that our forces have always considered their basic task outside the border the destruction of the largest possible number of

enemy forces in order to prevent the enemy from continuing its blatant aggressive and expansionist schemes against Iraq.

He stressed that during the glorious battle the Iraqi forces accomplished the major part of this task.

The following is the text of the statement.

A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Since 30 April the enemy has been trying to enter the city of Al-Muhammarah. During 25 days of persistent fighting in the area, particularly west of the city, in its outskirts and inside it, our valiant forces managed to destroy huge quantities of enemy war equipment. Our forces, which have always considered their basic task outside the border to be the destruction of the largest possible number of enemy forces in order to prevent the enemy from continuing its blatant aggressive and expansionist schemes against Iraq and its people, have during this glorious battle and with God's help accomplished the greater part of this task despite the sacrifices they offered. The day before yesterday, 23 May 1982, our forces began to evacuate the city of Al-Muhammarah and completed their withdrawal to the international border this morning.

We would like to stress a basic fact that rises above all the lies and void claims on which the Tehran rulers live. This fact is that what is important in the results of any battle is the final outcome of this battle. What is important is that our forces, during battles that lasted over 20 months and in this battle in particular, inflicted on the Iranian enemy very huge losses that led and will lead in the future to the destruction of its military, economic and political capabilities and the diminution of its ability to implement its aggressive and expansionist schemes and achieve its evil dreams.

We are confident that victory, the ally of Iraq which has believed in right and justice since the beginning of the battle, will remain our ally, God willing, so long as Iraq has succeeded in safeguarding its territory and sovereignty and the security and glorious, brilliant future of its people, and so long as it has succeeded with rare bravery in resisting and breaking for 2 years the ill-winds brought by the Khomeyni clique, which has collaborated with Zionism and all enemies to threaten, weaken and subjugate the Arab nation to Zionist influence and the designs of the Tehran rulers. The brave Iraqi fighters, who have fought courageously for the past 2 years, are capable, God willing, of fighting the enemy and forcing it to respect the security, sovereignty and rights of Iraq and the Arab nation.

2,711 Iranians Killed 25 May

JN251012 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0950 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

At dawn today an enemy force tried to attack some of the Muhammad al-Qasim units north of the Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] area. Our forces valiantly confronted the enemy force and clashed with it with all our weapons. In the ensuing fierce battle the enemy units sustained large losses and were forced to retreat. Immediately afterward, a force belonging to the valiant Muhammad al-Qasim forces launched a counterattack to destroy the retreating enemy force. It chased the enemy force, dealing deadly blows to it. It managed to destroy most of the attacking force and foil its desperate attack. During this battle, which was settled in our favor, the enemy sustained large numbers of dead, wounded and captured. Those captured will be evacuated to the rear.

Known enemy losses amounted to 2,711 killed, large quantities of various weapons destroyed and a quantity of serviceable weapons seized.

Thus, our valiant armed forces assert their ability and insistence on destroying the enemy forces and inflicting further losses on them in order to thwart the aggressive Khomeyni schemes which aim at expansion at the expense of our people and nation. Our forces, with God's help, will foil all the enemy alliances. The spiteful Iranian enemy will be forced to recognize our legitimate national and pan-Arab rights.

Radio Comments on Withdrawal

JN251035 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0825 GMT 25 May 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It is now definite that Iraq did not enter Iran out of greed for its territory, or in an attempt to control its resources or out of a desire to interfere in its affairs. Such ideas only existed in the mind of the other side, that is, the Iranian regime. It was the Iranians who expressed — and are still expressing -- their desire to seize Iraqi territory. It was they who whetted their appetite on Iraqi resources. It was also they who considered Iraq's development and progress a threat to their dark dreams and a hindrance to Zionist plans to keep all countries of the Arab homeland weak, backward and unable to exercise real sovereignty.

Thus, when they seized power, the Iranian rulers brushed aside their country's many problems and devoted themselves entirely, from the very first moment, to the objective of humbling Iraq, dividing its people and territory, and turning it wholly, or partially, into a province in their planned empire.

Iraq was aware of this plan, which the Iranian rulers had actually begun to implement, and entered their territory so that the fighting and all war's evils to people and buildings would take place inside Iran itself and also to ward off the danger before it was too late. Iraq was able, through successful blows, to destroy the myth of the invincible Gulf policeman, to defeat the fifth strongest army in the world and to occupy large tracts of Iranian territory and cities.

However, Iraq immediately declared the purpose of its entering the war. It said it did not enter the war to seize Iranian territory or humble the Iranian people, but to prevent any harm to its people, territory and sovereignty. It said that when guarantees were made to safeguard all this, it would not hesitate to withdraw from Iran, giving it back its territory and leaving the Iranian peoples to their own political options. The war could have ended in this manner. Iran could have regained its territory, stopped interfering in Iraqi affairs and respected Iraqi territorial integrity. Iran could have spared the blood of hundreds of thousands of its sons. It could also have saved the billions of dollars which were spent on the war and used them instead in reconstruction.

But the Iranian rulers refused and insisted on continuing the war. They were driven by two motives: their intention not to give up their ambitions on Iraq and the Gulf countries and intervention by Zionism and pro-Zionist regimes, especially the Hafiz al-Asad and Al-Qadhdhafi regimes, which encouraged the Iranian rulers to not only continue the war, but also to hold on to their ambitions. Iran has given military expertise, arms, economic support and information and political advice. This is no longer secret, but has become a source of pride for those regimes, which have bragged about it every day.

In view of this improvement in Iran's resources, the Iranian regime was able to continue its operations against our forces, but the past 21 months were sufficient to prove to the world that Iraq had the strength to continue the fighting and the determination to maintain the spirit of victory. True, Iraq withdrew from some of the occupied territories, and it is also true that it purposely changed the positions of its forces several times, but all that was not due to military defeat or loss, but was linked to the objectives of the war and other factors. Since the objective of the war was to prevent aggression, Iraq was not seeking means to remain in this or that position, but means which would make enemy penetration into Iraqi territory impossible. Iraq was seeking the best means to enable it to protect its soldiers, because human life is most precious. Iraq was also seeking means which would enable it to destroy the greater part of the enemy's war machine.

Since all this was achieved with God's help, the wisdom of the leadership and the courage of our fighters, what was left was immaterial to our calculations. Flexibility in military movement, while safeguarding Iraq's territory, sovereignty and people and at the same time destroying the capabilities of the other side, is an element of strength and not weakness.

Now that Khomeyni has thrown in everything he has, and now that Khomeyni and his overlords have disclosed all their cards, the duty of Iraqis is summed up in preventing the enemy from touching their territory. This is their fate and duty. They are capable of assuming the burdens, because they possess all the requirements of steadfastness, especially their awareness of what is taking place around them and of the evils planned for them.

SADDAM HUSAYN PAYS TRIBUTE TO EGYPT, MUBARAK

NC241140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) -- Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has described President Husni Mubarak's recent statements in support of Arab rights in Iraq as not strange for Egypt and that they restore hope for Egypt's relations with the Arabs.

In a statement carried by the weekly newspaper MAY, President Saddam Husayn said every patriotic Egyptian ruler who works for the good of Egypt and its people is consequently a strong Arab ruler. He explained that Egypt's nationalism and independence are of major importance, because Egypt constitutes one-third of the Arab nation. He said President Mubarak is building a correct relationship with the people of Egypt and the Arab nation. The steps he is taking are for a principle and Egypt is considered one-third of the Arab nation.

The Iraqi president said patriotism, nationalism and wisdom demanded that President Husni Mubarak take the Sinai back because Egypt had actually paid the price.

He affirmed that the Sinai multinational force has become a fact [natijah], and that it is not a separate U.S. force because it is multinational. He said it cannot be withdrawn by a unilateral decision as happened in 1967, noting that its presence is considered a barrier against Israeli pressure.

The Iraqi president also paid tribute to the role and contribution of Egyptians in Iraq, noting there are about 1.5 million Egyptians there. President Saddam Husayn affirmed that despite their large number, the Egyptians working in Iraq have no political problems at all.

Saddam Husayn welcomed visits between the Iraqi and Egyptian peoples in all spheres. He also welcomed visits by Egyptian journalists, doctors, lawyers and others.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi president said: We announce what we promise. When we differ, we announce our view. He explained that the deeply rooted Egyptian culture and the cultural connection between the peoples of Egypt and Iraq could serve as a model for Arab projects and the continuing Arab investments and brotherly assistance. He continued: Through all this Arab openness an Arab market will emerge. We welcome Egyptian products as long as their quality is as good as other products.

HUSAYN WOULD WELCOME EGYPT BACK TO ARAB FOLD

JN240801 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has said Iraq will support Eygptian President Husni Mubarak's sincere pan-Arab steps and oppose his steps that do not go in this direction.

In an interview with journalist Mahmud as-Sa'dani and published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH and [Iraqi newspaper] ATH-THAWRAH, the president added: Iraqi will deal with President Husni Mubarak without prejudice [hasasiyah] or complexes. However, he said, Iraq will not give him carte blanche.

The president said: Whenever President Husni Mubarak takes one step toward the Arabs, Iraq wil take two steps toward him. True Arabs should do the same. He stressed that the Arabs are stronger with Egypt than without it and that with Egypt the Arabs are a balanced state, whereas without it and under the nation's present circumstances the Arabs are in a different condition. He stressed that every true Arab should work for the creation and maintenance of such a balanced state.

President Saddam Husayn said Egypt's stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war is indisputably good. He added that Egypt has promptly responded to all Iraq's requests and was paid for that. He added that President Husni Mubarak has told an Iraqi delegation that Egypt has accepted the price due to its financial conditions and said: Otherwise, we would have given you everything for nothing. The president described Husni Mubarak's attitude as an honorable attitude that we appreciate. He added that his stand is more honorable than that of presidents who speak Arabic and pretend to be Arabs.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that the Arab nation has no interest in isolating Arab Egypt from the Arabs. Only the Zionist movement, colonialist circles and some Arab traitors have an interest in isolating Egypt from the Arabs. He said: When we say Arab Egypt, we mean an Egypt which adopts an Arab policy, serves the basic Arab causes, stands within Arab ranks and deals with all problems and issues from an Arab viewpoint.

President Saddam Husayn indicated that the stand of some Arabs is different. Those Arabs, he said, do not want Egypt in any way and this is the attitude of the Zionist movement and colonialism.

The president said: If the Egyptian Army comes to Baghdad, Iraq will welcome it and will open all doors for it.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that, despite everything, the current Arab stand augurs well. He said this fact is evident on Iraq's border where volunteers from all the Arab countries are stationed, despite the fact that some of their heads of state are either covertly or overtly working against Iraq.

He stressed that the stands of those Arab heads of state will have side effects on the concept of pan-Arabism, particularly for future generations. He added: However, these effects are not so great that we fear them. He said true Arabs should exert greater efforts so these stands do not affect the beliefs of our future generations.

He stressed there is no fear about the concept of Arabism because it is neither a viewpoint nor an opinion that is adopted by some people and opposed by others. He said Arabism is a creed, faith and a matter of life or death that may sometimes encounter some obstacles. Nevertheless, he said, the major course of Arabism remains pure and runs deep.

President Saddam Husayan said that, although not all Iraqis are party members, they are sympathetic with the Ba'th Party. He added that all Iraqis are offering their dearest possessions for the holy war against Iranian ambitions. He went on to say: Our men have fought the recent battle west of the Karun for 16 straight days. They fought bravely, taught the enemy a hard lesson, defeated it and inflicted losses on it.

He stressed that all Iraq has become one body, one mind and one heart during the last few years.

PRESIDENT CABLES THANKS TO KING HUSAYN

JN250902 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has said Iraq will not forget Jordan's true Arab stand. In a cable of congratulations sent to King Husayn of Jordan on the occasion of Jordan's National Day, President Saddam Husayn described Jordan's stand as a living picture of true Arab feelings.

The cable said: The honorable pan-Arab stand of Your Majesty and the people of fraternal Jordan in support of Iraq in the battle of duty and honor in defense of the eastern flank of the Arab homeland for the sake of the Arab nation's pride and dignity has deeply impressed us. Your Arab stand, despite the heavy responsibility you are shouldering along the confrontation line with the usurping Zionist enemy, is a living picture of the true Arab feelings. Iraq will not forget this true Arab stand.

I seize this happy opportunity to emphasize to Your Majesty the depth of the strong fraternal relations linking our two fraternal countries. We wish these relations continued progress and prosperity for the welfare of their common interests and the Arab nation's victory and glory. I wish Your Majesty continued good health and happiness and the fraternal Arab people in Jordan glory and prosperity.

RCC MEMBER HIKMAT IBRAHIM LEAVES FOR ADEN 22 MAY

JN220701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA) -- Revolution Command Council Member Hikmat Ibrahim left for Aden this morning on a visit to PDRY.

In a predeparture statement, the Iraqi envoy said he will deliver a message to President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad from his brother President Saddam Husayn dealing with bilateral relations and ways to develop them.

OPPOSITION RADIO SCORES OVERTURES TO ARABS

JN131744 Baghdad Voice of Egypt of Arabism in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 May 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers in Egypt and the great Arab homeland: What makes Arab solidarity at this particular time an unattainable Arab wish despite the existence of circumstances making it incumbant on everyone to unite and close Arab ranks? This is the question now posed in the Arab arena, which is suffering from fabricated divisions and while the Egyptian regime asks the Arabs to forego their differences with Egypt since the As-Sadat era, including the differences over Camp David, so Egypt can participate in future Arab summits.

In other words, Egypt is asking the Arabs to openly accept the Camp David formula if it is to return to its Arabism. It is as if Egypt's Arabism has a price, which the Arabs must pay, not to Egypt of course, but to those backstage who move events toward the objectives they want to achieve.

It is unfortunate the Egyptian regime is the one entrusted with the implementaton of these policies on the Arab homeland to achieve a strategic depth for the Camp David accords. This trend is clearly revealed by all the leaders of the Egyptian regime: such as the recent statement by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, and before that, Abu Ghazalah's declared plan to form an Arab military force composed of the Egyptian Army to defend U.S. and Western interests in the Arab Gulf region against what is termed the Soviet danger. The Arab military force is to replace the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force.

The Camp David accords are not primarily aimed at isolating Egypt from its nation, but at enabling the United States to strengthen and legalize its presence in several Arab countries. The Arab solidarity, for which Kamal Hasan 'Ali has put forth political conditions and Abu Ghazalah military conditions, is the solidarity acceptable to the United States, because it would give it the freedom to move its forces against a danger which it considers strategic. By doing so, the United States hopes to divert Arab attention from the real danger to the Arabs: namely, Israel. The United States is hoping to turn the Arab-Israeli conflict into some kind of coexistence between the two conflicting parties against the USSR, which the United States considers the real danger.

According to this approach, which has become obvious to the Arab layman, the Egyptian regime proposes reconciliation plans with the Arabs within the Camp David context. It is thus exploiting the present grave circumstances, which are threatening the security and stability of the region.

This is a very delicate phase in the history of the nation which calls for not only a revision of past stands, but obstinate and firm adherence to these stands to foil the great imperialist plot, which is moving through the colluding Arab channels and under the pretexts of defending our security and stability. It is as if we are no longer able to hold a rifle to defend our threatened existence. Is this the solidarity necessitated by the Arab reality in its current phase?

NCC SPEAKER 'ARAR DEPARTS ON VISIT TO MOSCOW

JN241638 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] National Consultative Council [NCC] speaker Sulayman 'Arar has left Amman for the USSR at the head of a Jordanian delegation on an official 10-day visit to the USSR. They will attend the popular rallies to be held there during Arab-Soviet friendship week.

'Arar said he will convey His Majesty King Husayn's greetings to Soviet leaders. He added he will meet with several Soviet officials to discuss ways of promoting bilateral relations.

PRESS VIEWS POSSIBLE SALE OF U.S. WEAPONS

JN240643 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 May 82

[Press review]

[Text] In today's editorials, Jordanian papers comment on the possible sale of sophisticated U.S. weapons to Jordan and on the clamor raised by Israel to prevent the U.S. administration from doing this. By doing so, the Israeli enemy seeks to monopolize the means of power and remain the strongest in this region so it will continue to enjoy absolute sway over the destiny of the region and its peoples.

Under the headline "Washington and the Zionist Extortion," AR-RA'Y writes: We are not surprised to see Senator Edward Kennedy oppose the attempt to sell sophisticated weapons to Jordan and some Arab states and try to foil any intention or attempt to deal with the partners to the Arab-Israeli conflict with a minimum of objectivity and balance. We are not surprised at this because we know the senator has been obsessed by the idea of reaching the White House for several years. We also know the road leading to the U.S. presidency requires the support of the Jews' votes. The price of these votes will certainly be the abondonment of rights, justice, freedom and all the noble values in which the U.S. people have believed and on whose bases they have laid their civilizations.

Likewise, we are not surprised to see Menahem Begin and his council of ministers raise a clamor once again on the issue of these weapons and warn the U.S. administration of the dangers of supplying Jordan and Iraq with such weapons. AR-RA'Y adds: We are not surprised because this is only the natural stance we expect from a savage enemy seeking to concentrate power in itself so that its voice will be the louder and so that it will continue to enjoy absolute sway over the destiny of the region and its peoples. What we greatly denounce and feel surprised at is the U.S. administration's submission to this chronic Zionist extortion, despite this administration's awareness that its interests in this region cannot remain free of danger as long as this administration is a hostage of Zionist decisions. Washington knows best that Jordan can obtain the weapons it needs to carry out its national and pan-Arab duties from anywhere. Jordan will not wait for the opinion of Senator Kennedy or Begin when the matter concerns the defense of its territory and any other Arab territory exposed to aggression.

Under the headline "The AWACS Group Is Active Once Again," AD-DUSTUR says: It seems U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's statements which were broadcasted several days ago on the possibility of selling sophisticated U.S. arms to Jordan have opened the doors wide for a new battle between Israel's influence in Washington and the powers granted by the Constitution to the U.S. President to administer U.S. foreign policy. In Washington, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is currently visiting the United States to hold talks on strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, has requested Israel's allies in the U.S. Congress to begin work to prevent the U.S. Government from selling any arms to Jordan.

In response to the Israeli order, a Zionist committee, headed by Senator Edward Kennedy, has begun to gather supporters and collect the necessary signatures to hinder the deal in a manner reminding us of the strange battle which Israel put up on the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia at the end of last year, a battle which ended with approval of the deal by the small majority vote in the senate and compensation of Israel by giving it additional financial aid and supplying it with more sophisticated arms. AD-DUSTUR adds: The new battle has nothing to do with Jordan. It is a confrontation between President Reagan and Menahem Begin in the U.S. arena. Freedom of U.S. decisionmaking is being made dependent on Israeli approval, and U.S. policy and interests are being exposed to Israeli control and blackmail. The U.S. administration, whose President had announced during the AWACS battle last year that U.S. decisions must not be influenced by outside considerations or influences, is now supposed to defend itself and its right to determine the foreign policy of its country. True, Jordan wants to purchase arms of which it feels it needs, but it will not allow the United States or Israel to interfere or to determine what it needs or does not need. Jordan will also not allow any other side to question its armament requirements.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Jordan wants to purchase U.S. arms at a price. Jordan has initially contacted the U.S. administration, which has expressed its approval, but Israel's influence over U.S. policy on the sale of arms to the Arab countries will not prevent Jordan from securing its armament requirements. Jordan can resort to other available markets. Although Israeli pressures will not affect Jordan's armament projects, they will surely have a negative effect on Arab-U.S. relations, since it has become clear to the Arabs these relations will from the U.S. side be always dependent on Israel's mood.

JORDAN TIMES COMMENTS ON U.S. ARMS POLICY

JN250918 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 May 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Round 2"]

[Text] Israel and its American surrogates have launched round 2 of their campaign to prevent the United States from selling a new package of aircraft and anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan. Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin has made a public appeal to American President Ronald Reagan to prevent any future sale of weapons to Jordan, while 44 American senators have already supported a draft resolution opposing an arms sale so long as Jordan opposes the Camp David treaties and buys Soviet weapons. The political reality underlying this campaign to prevent the arms deal is intriguing -- or should be for those Americans who believe that U.S. foreign policy decisions are made on the promotion of American interests.

Jordan has purchased Soviet (and British and French) arms recently precisely because pro-Israeli interests in Washington have denied us the advanced weapons that we feel are required for our legitimate self-defence needs, regardless of against whom it is that we feel we need to defend ourselves. For American senators now to link U.S. arms sales to Jordan to our not buying weapons from the Soviets or from anyone else of our own choosing is too much of a Catch-22 situation to be taken seriously. We take this opportunity once again to suggest to our old friends in the United States to take a closer look at how their senators make foreign policy decisions, and, while they're at it, to take an even closer look at the web of weakening relations between America and its traditional friends in the region. The trend is clear. Americans need only to open their eyes and see what is happening to their friends, to their decisionmaking process, and to their threatened independence in foreign policy formulation.

ISRAELIS DOWN SYRIAN PLANE OVER AL-BIQA' 25 MAY

NC251234 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1218 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] A dogfight between Syrian and Israeli planes took place in the skies of South Kisrawan at 1330 [1130 GMT]. A Syrian plane was downed. The pilot bailed out and landed in the outskirts of Al-Qulay'at township. He was immediately moved to the Al-Haj Hospital in (Ashquar) and admitted to the emergency ward.

Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier and flew over Al-Biqa' area before the lightning dognight. An Israeli plane reconnoitered Syrian missiles in Al-Biqa' and was intercepted by the Syrian plane. During the dogfight, the two planes veered toward the Kisrawan Mountains and exchanged four missiles in 8 seconds during which the Syrian plane was hit and fell in the outskirts of Al-Qulay'at township.

AL-WAZZAN DENOUNCES FRENCH EMBASSY BOMBING

NC241812 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Immediately on being informed about the French Embassy bombing incident, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan held contacts with the security commands to be briefed on the details and implications of the incident. He also contacted civil defense director Nazih Sham'un to be briefed on the necessary measures. Al-Wazzan also contacted the French Embassy and conveyed to the French consul his denunciation and condemnation of the criminal bombing incident which claimed innocent victims.

The prime minister met with the chief of the public security investigation department, Col Na'im Farah, who briefed him on the results of the preliminary investigations.

Commenting on the French Embassy bombing incident, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: We have been deeply pained by the incident. It has become necessary we should express our denunciation and be pained every day. I tried to contact the French ambassador but he was not available. I spoke to the consul and expressed to him my denunciation and regret.

French Envoy's Comments

NC242051 Paris AFP in English 2041 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Beirut, 24 May (AFP) -- France's ambassador to Lebanon Paul Marc Henri said here that after today's car bomb attack on the French Embassy "extremely important decisions are to be taken" but that "the French presence will be maintained."

Mr Henri returned here today after a trip to Paris. He said the attack was a criminal act "not of intimidation but of deliberate elimination."

"It is an act of war which cannot be attributed to anyone, if not the general climate of war in which we find ourselves," he added.

He said the French Embassy was "the most exposed due to its size and the diversity of its activities."

The ambassador said "decisions concerning the embassy will not be dictated by the size of the explosion since we represent the French presence in Lebanon."

The death toll from the car bombing was 11 after a sixth embassy employee died. Five other victims were Lebanese nationals waiting at the consulate office for visas.

GROUP CLAIMS CREDIT FOR WEST BEIRUT EXPLOSION

NC241800 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] An organization calling itself the Free Nasirite Revolutionaries [Ath-Thuwwar an-Nasiriyyun al-Ahrar], a previously unknown organization, has contacted a news agency and claimed responsibility for the explosions in the western part of Beirut.

AL-MURABITUN, ARAB KNIGHTS CLASH IN WEST BEIRUT

NC241807 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] At about 1800 [1600 GMT] today, a clash occurred in the Saqiyat al-Janzir locality in western Beirut between members of Al-Murabitun [Independent Nasirite Movement] and the Arab Knights [Fursan al-Arab]. Both sides used medium- and light-caliber arms. A member of the Arab Knights was injured in the clash. The internal security forces have blocked the road leading to Saqiyat al-Janzir.

BEIRUT PRESS COMMENTS ON DRAPER'S TASK, TALKS

NC220838 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 May 82

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In its political analysis today, AN-NAHAR discusses [U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state] Morris Draper's talks in Lebanon. However, the paper wonders why Washington has undertaken now and not earlier to reveal parts of the secret cease-fire agreement which U.S. special envoy Philip Habib drew up on 24 July 1981? Does U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper's tour to a number of the area's states have any connection with this, and is this meant to facilitate or hamper his mission?

In any case, AN-NAHAR points out with his tour Draper is paving the way for special U.S. pesidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib, who will be touring the area at a later date.

AL-ANWAR comments on the political role the United States is playing in the area through the conflicting formulas it is drawing up for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. It says: With a frightening disregard for Lebanon's agony, fragmentation and division among the players, the administration of U.S. President Reagan prefers to adopt a no-policy policy at present to avoid exerting pressure on Israel and angering Begin and to keep the Arab doors open to it. It fears both an explosion and progress toward a settlement, because an explosion would compel it to adopt a stand and chart a policy and so would negotiations. Nothing suits the U.S. no-policy policy better than a cease-fire in a long tunnel in which no one knows when he will reach the other end or what lies beyond it.

AL-LIWA' holds the same opinion, saying: It is definite Washington is not presenting a just solution and it is staying on the side of aggression. Therefore, the intrinsic capabilities and coordination with the Arab brothers must be relied on fully.

AL-LIWA' adds: Draper is returning to his country with one thing on his mind: The continuation of the consultations and contacts for the adoption of a stand that will actually help Lebanon to emerge from its crisis by sending a U.S. personality who will have answers to the Lebanese questions and who will advocate participation with the international community in implementing the Security Council resolutions and preventing aggressions against Lebanon to enable it to end its sufferings; such an envoy might be Philip Habib.

Under the title "Draper the Adversary and Draper the Judge," ASH-SHARQ says: There is a big question mark accompanying the tour of U.S. envoy Morris Draper: How was the cease-fire agreement honored in southern Lebanon from July 1981 up to the past few weeks while differences of views existed between the Palestinians, the Israelis and the United States on the concept of this agreement?

AMAL LEADER DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH PLO, SYRIA

NC221407 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 10-16 May 82 pp 14-19

[By Claude Khoury]

[Excerpts] Nabih Birri, leader of the predominantly Shi'ite Amal movement, revealed last week that Syria had warned Amal, the leftist National Movement alliance and the Palestine Liberation Organization that it would pull the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] out of Beirut and the suburbs if they did not stop their armed clashes.

The warning, Birri said in a private interview with MONDAY MORNING, came while Amal was engaged in fierce battles with some National Movement and Palestinian organizations in west Beirut, the suburbs and south Lebanon last month.

He said that although the clashes had stopped, the situation remained "highly dangerous" and must be defused immediately -- not by the usual emotional reconcilations but by a clear agreement that defines a framework of action for all groups involved.

Birri charged that, contrary to repeated statements by the PLO leadership that the Palestinians were not involved in last month's clashes with Amal, "most" Palestinian organizations took part in the battles. He said that in the preliminary meeting in Beirut of the Higher Coordination Committee, which groups Amal, the National Movement, the PLO and Syria, agreement in principle was reached on two points:

-- That the PLO should henceforth not involve itself in Lebanese internal security matters, which concerned Amal and the National Movement only, but concentrate on "strategic security" -- defense against Israel.

-- That the Higher Coordination Committee should consider ways of handing internal security matters in south Lebanon over to the Lebanese internal security forces.

A third point on which no agreement was reached but which Amal was insisting on was that all arms and gunmen be removed from Beirut and the suburbs, where there was no direct Israeli threat to justify the present abundance of weapons, Birri said.

These matters would be the subject of discussion in the next meeting of the Higher Coordination Committee in Damascus, he said, but that "quadrilateral" meeting would not be held until the consequences of last month's clashes were eliminated and until a minimum level of agreement was reached in the current "bilateral and trilateral meetings."

Birri confirmed that he had submitted his resignation as leader of Amal two weeks ago. He said his move had been prompted by the failure of "the other parties" to implement the decision of the Higher Coordination Committee in Beirut that the consequences of the clashes be eliminated -- in other words, that all gunmen are withdrawn from the southern villages that were the scene of violence so that all the displaced Lebanese can return to their homes. He said he withdrew his resignation when it was rejected by the Amal leadership council and when action was taken to apply the committee's decision.

On other subjects:

Israel and the Litani: Birri said that Amal would consider the south Lebanon cease-fire broken if there was confirmation of repeated reports from the south that Israel was preparing to pipe water from the Al-Litani River to Galilee. "I am saying this for the first time," he stated. "If it is confirmed to me that Israel is exploiting the waters of the Al-Litani, I will call an urgent meeting of the Amal movement's Command Council, consider this matter a violation of the cease-fire and act on that basis. I will act on that basis to bring woe to everyone -- because it is impossible for us to stand idly by as Israel takes the waters of the Al-Litani, which would be the first step toward an Israeli take-over of the south".

He added that if Israel invaded the south, all Amal members and southerners had orders to stay in the south and fight. "We will stay, and new Palestinians will be created who will pose a threat not only to Israel but to the thrones of the Arabs as well," he warned.

Sectarian war: Birri said that the recent wave of assassinations and other attacks aimed against religious leaders and places of worship were obviously aimed at fragmenting Lebanon further by setting sect against sect.

The same objective, he said, was behind the talk about Sunni-Shi'ite confrontations which accompanied every clash between Amal and the National Movement -- rumors which were totally illogical since the "majority" of National Movement members, like the majority of Amal members, were Shi'ite.

The nationwide solidarity which was demonstrated after the attacks on religious men and places was the best response to the people behind this plot, Birri said, adding: "I do not fear the eruption of a sectarian war in Lebanon."

Local council elections: Birri suggested that last month's clashes between Amal and the National Movement were precipitated by Amal's rejection of the National Movement's plan to hold elections for "local councils" in West Beirut. "Although we studied the matter a great deal before we said no to the local councils, there was fighting," he said.

Repeating his party's rejection of the local council project as "a form of autonomy" which would encourage the partition of Lebanon, Birri said that the council elections had been cancelled, explaining: "I believe our brothers in the National Movement are now convinced that it would be difficult to apply the local council idea. The local council elections were to be held on April 25. The National Movement has stated that the elections have been postponed pending the creation of "better circumstnces" and the preparation of similar elections in all other leftist-controlled parts of Lebanon. The movement, which has consistently denied that the councils are an attempt at establishing west Beirut autonomy, explained the project to MONDAY MORNING in an interview which was published in the April 19-25 issue of this magazine.

Inter-Shi'ite relations: Birri said that although there were good relations between the Amal movement and the higher Shi'ite council, there were often differences in views between the movement and the council. This, he said, was only natural and it did not imply that there were "contradictions" between the two bodies.

Nabih Birri stated that during last month's clashes, "something like a warning was sent by the Syrian leadership to me, to Mr Walid Junblatt (leader of the National Movement) and to Abu 'Ammar (PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat), stating that if the fighting continued, Syria would be forced to pull the ADF out of Lebanon, or at least out of Beirut and the other battle scenes." The warning, he said, reflected "the extreme embarrassment to which the clashes subjected Syria, which has special relations with the Amal movement, the Palestinian resistance and the National Movement."

It was out of the question for the Syrians to stop such clashes by military means, since that would entail Syrian military action against one or all of its allies in Lebanon, Birri said. "They try to avert these clashes through meetings and coordination, and whenever anything happens, we all turn to the ADF to calm things down," he said. "But the Syrian position (warning) last month was very logical. In effect, what they said was this: Since they found themselves unable to take military action against the belligerents and unable to remain idle as the clashes continued, the only thing they could do would be to leave the Lebanese arena, or at least the scenes of the battles."

Serious efforts to settle the problems that were repeatedly leading to clashes between Amal and the forces of the National Movement and the Palestinian resistance had actually started in the meeting held last month at the Beirut residence of the leader of the Syrian Ba'th in Lebanon, 'Asim Qansu, Birri said. At that meeting, which was attended by representatives of all four members of the Higher Coordination Committee, it was agreed that a framework of action should be worked out for all parties that would prevent future clashes -- but only after the consequences of the April clashes had been eliminated: All militiamen should be pulled out of the villages where the clashes occurred to allow the villagers to return to their homes.

It was because action to eliminate those "consequences" was delayed that Birri decided to submit his resignation as leader of the Amal movement. "The agreement on the southern villages was reached in the presence of the top leaders," Birri said. "Later, however, I noticed that the other parties were delaying the implementation of this agreement, to an extent that suggested that the agreement was not going to be applied. That left us no choice but to fight again. And since I knew that fighting would do neither Lebanon nor anyone else any good but would only raise tension and lead to partition, I felt I must give up my duties.

"However, many contacts were made with me, there was a popular rejection of the resignation, the Amal leadership council also rejected the resignation, and the other parties started to implement the agreement -- all of which prompted me to withdraw my resignation.

Now that the "consequences" of the April clashes had been eliminated, preparations were under way for a Higher Coordination Committee meeting in Damascus to arrive at a "formula of action" that would be binding on Amal, the National Movement and the Palestinians and that would hopefully avert a recurrence of clashes, Birri said. The preparations were taking the form of attempts to arrive at a "minimum level of agreement" on the proposed formula through "bilateral and trilateral meetings" among the four members of the Higher Coordination Committee, he said. He added that the broadlines of an agreement were tentatively approved during the meeting in Qansu's residence last month.

"For instance, agreement was reached on the principle that the Palestinian resistance has nothing to do with internal affairs in Lebanon and the south. The Palestinian resistance has an agreement with Lebanon to preserve its strategic security, and in this we all support it, but it has nothing to do with Lebanon's internal affairs. Internal affairs are the business of Amal, the National Movement and the Lebanese citizens in general, but not the business of the Palestinian resistance. Agreement was reached on this point, and we consider this a very important development.

"Another thing that we agreed on was that no matter what problems arise in the future, nothing could justify the shelling of villages. On that basis, we are all considering ways and means to bring the legal forces, and especially the internal security forces, into the south. In other words, everyone agrees that no one can replace legitimacy."

"In addition, I have suggested a third point which is being discussed but has not been agreed upon yet: that all armed men be pulled out of Beirut and all weapons in the capital be collected. I say that over 90 percent of the problems that crop up in Beirut and the suburbs are caused by the abundance of arms in the city. Weapons may be justified in the south, where there is a constant danger from Israel, but what are they for in Beirut? I am calling for the collection of all weapons from all armed organizations in Beirut. "If agreement is reached on all these things, most of the major problems will have been eliminated."

"The information trend these days, the rumors and the propaganda, are all aimed against the Palestinians. This is a big mistake, because we are forgetting the greatest danger posed to us, which is Israel. The Palestinians have observed the cease-fire with Israel since last July. When Israel mounted its air raids last month, I and other people asked the Palestinians not to respond, because we feared that the response would be taken as a pretext for an invasion of the south. The Palestinians cooperated in this and did not respond, thus demonstrating their concern for self-preservation and for the preservation of Lebanon and the south."

Birri said he failed to understand how the world could accept Israel's logic in south Lebanon. "If an Israelis is killed in Paris, they say this is a violation of the cease-fire in the south. If one is killed near Jordan, they say it is a violation of the southern cease-fire. Stranger still, if an Israeli enters Lebanese territory and drives over a mine, they say this is a violation of the cease-fire and they send their planes to attack Palestinian positions in Lebanon. While all this happening, the world is watching idly. I have already talked about the Arab states' attitude, and we all know what the rest of the world is doing -- especially the United States."

When President Reagan's special envoy came to Lebanon last, Birri said, he brought with him nothing but Israeli warnings: "Watch out, he came to say: Anything you do may precipitate an Israeli occupation of the south. That is why I refused to meet with him. As the leader of a movement which considers the south its major concern and as a south Lebanese citizen, I refuse to receive such warnings."

In contrast, the Lebanese state was heeding the warnings to the extent of allowing Israel to control its actions in the south, Birri said.

SAUDI MINISTER CONVEYS MESSAGE, DEPARTS 24 MAY

JN241950 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at 1245 today. The meeting was attended by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and Isma'il ash-Shura, ambassador at the Saudi Foreign Ministry [title as heard].

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed a message to President al-Asad from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealing with the situation in the region.

President al-Asad sent a reply message to the Saudi king. The two sides also exchanged views on conditions in the region.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Damascus at 2030 today after a short visit to Syria. He was seen off by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs.

ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU DUE IN DAMASCUS 25 MAY

JN250641 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] President Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, is due to arrive in Damascus today on an official and cordial visit at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad. Official talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ceausescu are scheduled to begin this afternoon.

PAPERS PREDICT SADDAM HUSAYN'S DEFEAT, OVERTHROW

JN250746 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH says: We are confident our heroic people in Iraq will not prolong the life of that tyrant hangman. Our struggling masses there will not feel the bitterness of defeat, because the war initated by agent Saddam is not their war. They have not believed in it from the first moment. What is happening now is a defeat for Saddam and his regime and a historic opportunity for our people and army in Iraq to mete out fair punishment to those who plunged the army and nation into the furnace of a war that serves the United States and Israel. A clear fact borne out by this sharp turn of events on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland is that whoever tries to confuse and weaken Syria, contain its struggle line and strike at its alliances -- which serve the policy of steadfastness and confrontation -- will have no future in this region. He is certain to face defeat and downfall.

ATH-THAWRAH says: Today, as the last pages of Saddam's black and treasonous record unfold, exposing him as the agent of Camp David and a plotter with As-Sadat -- and now with Mubarak -- to implement U.S. and Israeli plans, it has become a national and pan-Arab necessity to overthrow the regime of traitor Saddam. By doing so, we are not only saving our people in Iraq but also removing this U.S.-Israeli landmine from the path of the Arab masses and providing means for the victory of the Arab struggle and the central Arab issue -- the Palestine question.

TISHRIN says: Here are the cards of the new plan proving with every passing day that what Syria had said was right and what Syria had warned of was a real danger. Just as As-Sadat was the godfather of the Saddam-shah agreement, Mubarak has now become the partner of Saddam himself in the war, which has deprived Iraq of all its strength. The objective was obvious, to keep Iraq out of its natural place in the pan-Arab struggle and to deprive it of all its resources, capabilities and role. We do not think anyone sees the deliverance of Iraq from the situation it is in, the one it is heading for or the one planned for it except through getting rid of Saddam.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON AFRICA DAY

JN250852 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement on the occasion of Africa Day, which is celebrated today. The statement says: The Syrian Arab Republic -- people and government -- while saluting the peoples of the African Continent, who have struggled for the sake of their freedom and independence, reaffirms on the occasion of 25 May its support for these peoples in consolidating their independence and its strong solidarity with them in liquidating all forms of colonialism and neo-imperialism.

The statement adds: Arab Syria celebrates this occasion because it considers this day to be a day of victory for the African peoples' struggle for their right to determine their own destiny and sovereignty over their territories. The United Nations has exerted successful efforts in helping and guiding this struggle, which has come as a result of the African peoples' maturity. The UN committee on colonialism, in which Syria is a member, has played a significant role in this respect.

The statement says: The savage onslaught to which liberation forces in Africa are being exposed by imperialism and racist regimes threatens to bring about a serious deterioration in the situation. This calls for more alertness and cooperation to confront the plans of these criminal regimes.

The statement says: Since the establishment of the United Nations, Syria has supported the cause of freedom and waged a relentless campaign against imperialism and racism. Today, Syria reaffirms its determination and resolution to continue to support the African liberation movement and to give it every possible support in the struggle for common destiny. The Syrian Arab Republic considers itself committed to the struggle against the challenges of colonialism and racism in the African Continent. It will confront these challenges with the same resolution and determination with which it confronts Zionism, until imperialist forces and all forms and manifestations of colonialism, racism and Zionism have been eliminated.

IDF DOWNS TWO SYRIAN AIRCRAFT OVER BEIRUT

TA251157 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1155 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] An IDF spokesman has announced that air force planes on a routine flight encountered Syrian planes over Beirut this morning. Two MiG's were shot down in the serial dogfight that ensued. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

U.S. CLAIMS BEGIN WARNING ON LEBANON 'MISTAKE'

TA250944 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 May 82 p 2

[Report from the United States by Gid'on Samet]

[Text] Washington, 24 May (special to HA'ARETZ) -- A great deal of tension was created here at the beginning of last week on the Lebanese issue as a result of what senior administration officials termed "a mistake by Israeli diplomats" in the transmission of a message by Prime Minister Menahem Begin. This has been learned from authoritative sources.

On Monday in the absence of Ambassador Moshe Arens, Ministry Plenipotentiary Ya'aqov Nehushtan in the Israeli Embassy here conveyed a message (whose content has not been released to date) from Mr Mehamen Begin to U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel. Mr Nehushtan said that considering PLO actions in the preceding days Israel will not restrain itself "next time." The announcement in the prime minister's name was received as a warning in the guide of an ultimatum about Israel's intention to act in Lebanon if the terrorist acts recur. This announcement caused a great deal of nervousness and confused senior U.S. administration officials who understood that a day earlier the Israeli Government had softened its position from the preceding week.

Urgent clarifications via the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv indicated that the tone of the message was stronger as transmitted to Mr Stoessel and that it did not mark a change in the Israeli line. "The announcement was very sharp and caused a lot of concern," a senior U.S. administration official told HA'ARETZ. "We were pleased when it emerged that this was not as serious as it looked."

Israel Embassy officials denied the manner in which the message was conveyed constituted a deviation from its content and tone.

BEGIN: AUTONOMY TALKS MUST BE HELD IN JERUSALEM

TA251139 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said a few minutes ago that if autonomy negotiations do not take place in Jerusalem, Cairo and Washington the negotiations will not take place at all. The prime minister said that if someone tries to boycott Jerusalem, Jerusalem will boycott him. If someone tries to pressure us we will return the pressure, said the prime minister.

Mr Begin also said he wants his remarks to reach U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig who is to give an address tomorrow and appeal to Israel to forgo Jerusalem as a venue for autonomy negotiations. Mr Begin said: If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither. Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. [Psalms 137:5, 6]

The prime minister was speaking at a cornerstone laying ceremony at a building named after 'Aliza and Menahem Begin at Bar-Ilan University. The building will serve as an institute for research into underground organizations.

The prime minister revealed for the first time that the Iraqi leader, Saddam Husayn, had prepared [hekhin] at the nuclear reactor in Baghdad three nuclear bombs. The prime minister said that had the Iraqis used these three bombs some 600,000 people in Israel would have been killed or wounded. Therefore, he ordered the air force in June, about a year ago, to bomb the nuclear reactor in Baghdad.

BEGIN, SHAMIR DIFFER ON U.S. ARMS SALES TO JORDAN

TA251019 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 May 82 p 1

[Report by Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] It was learned in Jerusalem yesterday that there are differences in emphasis between Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Shamir with regard to the gravity with which one should handle the U.S. inclination to supply modern and sophisticated arms to Jordan. While the prime minister in the Cabinet meeting on Sunday highlighted his very negative attitude toward Secretary of Defense Weinberger's inclination to supply arms to Jordan and even officially released his statement to the Cabinet on this issue, Foreign Minister Shamir is inclined to highlight the good relations with the United States.

It has been learned that the foreign minister is inclined to lower the profile of Israel's opposition to the U.S. arms deal with Jordan and views Israel's activity as "an act to prevent arms supply to Jordan" rather than an "information campaign."

CIRCLES EXPLAIN BEGIN'S CRITICISM OF WEINBERGER

TA251016 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 May 82 p 2

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] The sharp remarks Mr Begin leveled at U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger at the Cabinet meeting on Sunday do not herald a special political and informational campaign against the sale of U.S. arms to Jordan. This was made clear by political circles in Jerusalem yesterday.

The circles explained that Mr Begin's remarks came in reaction to a statement made by Weinberger at the end of last week. They added that the Israeli effort to foil the intention to sell sophisticated arms to Jordan is continuous. The circles further said that Israeli-U.S. relations are very good and close and that disagreements and tough remarks on both sides do not really cloud the good level of basic relations between the two countries.

On another matter, the circles said a positive process can be noted of tightening and improvement in relations between Israel and West European countries. Israel will act to involve European countries in joint Israeli-Egyptian development and financial plans.

REAGAN INVITES BEGIN TO WHITE HOUSE MEETING

TA241514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] The U.S. President has sent a message to the prime minister inviting him for lunch at the White House on 21 June. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer describes the contents of the message as very friendly. President Reagan writes that in the meeting at the White House there will be an opportunity to discuss all issues on the agenda. The message was conveyed to the prime minister by the U.S. ambassador to Israel. Ambassador Lewis left for Washington to participate in Defense Minister Sharon's talks with his U.S. counterpart.

EGYPT NOT SUPPLYING MODERN U.S. ARMS TO IRAQ

TA241409 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 May 82

["Midday Newsreel" report by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a -- recorded]

[Excerpt] We have learned from authoritative sources that no modern U.S. arms being supplied to Egypt have gone to Iraq. Egypt, which receives modern U.S. arms and replaces outmoded Soviet equipment with them, passed the Soviet equipment -- mainly ammunition, artillery pieces and T-54 and T-55 tanks -- on to Iraq. The U.S. State Department has denied several times in the past that the United States is supplying arms directly or indirectly to either of the two countries fighting in the 18-month-old Persian Gulf war.

A senior source in the U.S. Embassy in Israel told us today the United States does not encourage Egypt to supply Iraq with outmoded Soviet arms because the United States has no interest in helping Iraq. Actually, the United States is neutral in this war and from its point of view the preferred solution to the conflict is the return of the situation to the status quo antebellum. Incidentally, U.S. law forbids the transfer of arms to a third party.

CIRCLES ON U.S., EGYPT, GULF WAR, AFRICA

TA241752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 May 82

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- recorded]

[Text] The argument with the United States over its intentions to supply sophisticated weapons to Jordan will not adversely affect the very good relations with the United States. This was stated this evening by political circles in Jerusalem, as if to thus cool the heated declarations on this issue in the last few days. True, a confrontation is brewing between Washington and Jerusalem over this issue but the circles emphasized the arguments are an indication of close relations.

Israel is far from being isolated. Many signs indicate Israel is not as alone as a tamarisk in the desert. There have been signs in Egypt indicating an improvement in the normalization of relations with Israel. For the first time yesterday, an Israeli company's advertisement was published in AL-AHRAM. Also, Egyptian television gave wide coverage to an Israeli art exhibit.

Generally, the Arab world is entirely preoccupied with the impact of the Iraq-Iran conflict. For the first time in a long time the countries in this region are not preoccupied with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Apprehension about the expansion of Islamic extremism has paralyzed these countries.

Referring to Israeli-European relations, the political circles said we are currently in the process of tightening relations with European countries.

On Israeli-African ties, the circles noted there is no way of knowing when and which countries will follow in Zaire's footsteps and resume relations with us. Israel will indefatigably continue to work on this matter. We will not be deterred by the pressure exerted by Arab countries on African leaders not to resume ties with Israel.

EGYPTIANS REPORTED AMONG PLO FIGHTERS IN LEBANON

TA250935 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 May 82 p 1

[Report by the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Text] Egyptian citizens are included in the PLO deployment in southern Lebanon and even operate forward positions in the Arnun plateau.

The Beirut paper (ASH-SHARA') is disclosing this fact for the first time and describes an Egyptian base in southern Lebanon named after Khalid al-Islambuli (the leader of the group which assassinated President as-Sadat). The portrait of An-Nasir is displayed at this base against the backdrop of an Egyptian flag -- from the era of the union with Syria -- and a PLO flag. The fighters of "Arab Egypt" are staying in a forward base near Beaufort Castle. Several hundred South Yemen citizens have also been reported in the PLO deployment in southern Lebanon.

One of the Egyptians at the base told the paper's correspondent that if the Sinai front doors have been locked to Eygpt "then we here in southern Lebanon are opening for Egypt the front against the Zionist enemy."

Arab sources further report the PLO has recently increased its mobilizing of West Bank youths arriving in Amman. According to the sources, the Jordanian security authorities are indeed preventing the move of terrorist squads from their border to Israel's territory but they are not trying to stop the intensive mobilization activity carried out by the PLO representatives in Amman.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES SELLING ARMS TO ARGENTINA

TA241716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] A Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman again made it clear that since the Falklands crisis erupted, Israel has not signed any new arms deals with Argentina. He was thus reacting to a report in the Johannesburg STAR that South Africa was rushing arms to Argentina, including Israeli-made Gavri'el sea-to-sea missiles and spare parts for Israeli-made Nesher aircraft.

ALIGNMENT-MAPAM DISPUTE CONTINUES OVER AMNON LINN

TA241046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] The Alignment faction will not hold its regular weekly session today because of the dispute with the MAPAM faction over the joining of MK's Amnon Linn and Yitzhaq Peretz to the Alignment. Our Knesset correspondent Arye Golan reports the decision was made at a meeting between the head of the MAPAM faction, Dov Zakin, and the chairman of the Alignment faction, Moshe Shahal, after MAPAM had made it clear that it would not participate in the session if Linn or Peretz were to attend it. Accordingly, only the Alignment Executive will convene today and efforts will be made to iron out the differences by this evening.

Linn Will Not Join Alignment

TA241632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] MK Amnon Linn will not join the Alignment faction but will merely form what he calls a parliamentary bloc with that faction. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that through this formula the Labor Party hopes to overcome MAPAM's opposition to the incorporation of Linn into the Alignment.

PERES TO MEET MITTERRAND; EBAN TO MEET CHEYSSON

TA242100 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres will confer with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace on Friday. Peres will also meet leaders of the ruling Socialist Party, including Secretary General Lionel Jospin.

At his request, Knesset Member Abba Eban will confer with French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson in Paris on Wednesday. This report has not yet been confirmed by any official source.

POLL INDICATES MAJORITY FAVORS EARLY ELECTIONS

TA250728 Jerusalem POST in English 25 May 82 p 2

[Report by Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv -- A majority of the public favour early elections and an even bigger percentage support holding Knesset and local polls on the same day. This emerged from the latest Jerusalem POST poll conducted between May 2 and May 14 by the Modi'n Ezrahi Research Institute among a representative sample of 1,233 adults.

Q: Are you for or against early elections?

	General Population	Pro Likud	Pro Labour
For	53.9	36.5	80.4
Against	37.4	57.1	15.6
Undecided	8.7	6.4	4.0

A preponderance of white-collar workers, Western communities, and the secular favour an early poll. A greater number of those lower down the occupational and educational scale oppose early elections.

Q: As a general rule are you for or against holding Knesset and local elections on the same day?

	General Population	Pro Likud	Pro Labour
For	62.3	59.2	64.5
Against	28.1	32.7	28.4
Undecided	9.6	8.1	7.1

While support for holding the two sets of elections on the same day enjoyed almost equal support among both Likud and Labour voters, less educated groups opposed the idea.

EGYPTIAN AUTONOMY DEMAND: CAMP DAVID DEVIATION

TA241827 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1630 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Beersheba, 24 May -- "We do not intend to participate in the boycott of Jerusalem as a venue for autonomy negotiations with Egypt," Justice Minister Moshe Nisim said on a talk with students at Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba at noon today.

Minister Nisim added "Egypt demands the transfer of all of Israel's powers to the administrative council and this constitutes a deviation from the Camp David accords."

In light of the difficulties involved in the establishment of autonomy, the minister stressed: "There is no telling how the autonomy negotiations will end." In the minister's opinion, it has been understood throughout the world and mainly in Europe that the only real course to peace is that of autonomy.

The minister also referred to the subject of Yamit saying that the lawbreakers in Yamit were treated with indulgence due to the political nature of the incidents. The justice minister nevertheless warned against an attempt to regard this indulgence as a model for the government's conduct in the future. One of the students asked whether this was a hint of what will happen if civilians resist the evacuation of Judaea and Samaria. Nisim's reply was: There is a vast difference between the Sinai problem and the problem of Judaea and Samaria, where we have historic rights and a security interest.

POLICE SAFELY DISMANTLE BOMB IN BET SHEMESH

TA241114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] At noon a police sapper dismantled a bomb in the Bet Shemesh business district. Nobody was hurt. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that the bomb, connected to a clock, was in a pipe.

SECURITY FORCES DISCOVER 'TERRORIST SQUAD'

TA241726 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1715 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Jerusalem, 24 May -- Security forces last week discovered a terrorist squad whose members had thrown Molotov cocktails at Israeli cars traveling on the main Jerusalem-Jericho road near the village of Al-'Ayzariyah. The squad members have so far admitted to having thrown Molotov cocktails at a military car and a military jeep during the last 2 weeks. Their interrogation is continuing.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria notes that during disturbances in the beginning of May, unknown people hurled Molotov cocktails at Israeli cars, particularly military cars, in the village of Al-'Ayzariyah. For a while the village was blocked off. On 25 May [as received] unidentified people again hurled a Molotov cocktail at a military jeep, injuring an IDF soldier and damaging the vehicle.

BETHLEHEM ATTORNEY DISAVOWS POLITICAL INTENT

TA241919 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpts] Attorney Jamil (al-'Azi) of Bethlehem -- who holds the franchise [zikayon] to publish the paper AT-TAQADDUM -- this evening told our correspondent: I have no intention of setting up a political party and my paper has no right [as heard] to discuss the issue of autonomy. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria Arye Gus reports:

[Begin Gus recording] The man holding the franchise to publish the paper AL-TAQADDUM, which means PROGRESS, backed off upon hearing the reports connecting him with any intention to set up a moderate party in the territories. I have no intention to establish such a party and all I want to do is to publish a paper, said Jamil (al-'Azi), an attorney from Bethlehem. He noted: The idea to publish a paper is 8 years old but, at that time, we thought of calling it AL-MAHD, which means THE NATIVITY. Important and influential people in Bethlehem undermined the idea and they are the ones who are now spreading these rumors about me. Two months ago we renewed our efforts because the validity of the franchise was about to expire. (Al-'Azi) goes on to say that AT-TAQADDUM will be a Palestinian paper that adheres to the positions of the Palestinian people for an independent state and an end to the occupation.

Neither Jamil (al-'Azi) nor his opponents in Bethlehem and not even Israeli sources are aware of the intention to set up a party. As a paper we do not have a mandate to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people, nor to discuss the issue of autonomy, (Al-'Azi) said angrily.

Jamil (al-'Azi) is known as a moderate. In the past he supported President as-Sadat's initiative and even participated in a delegation to Cairo after As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. However, he is not regarded as a man of political initiative. In any case, a source at the civilian administration noted there is no intention for either the paper or its founders to replace the village leagues. [end recording]

Our correspondent adds the Hebron Hills village league is also scheduled to publish a weekly called UMM AL-QURA, which means MOTHER OF THE VILLAGES.

WEST BANK PUBLIC FIGURES DECLINE MAYORAL POSTS

TA242129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] All public figures in Judaea and Samaria approached by the civilian administration to fill the posts left empty by the deposed mayors have declined, and at present the civilian administration does not have any other mayoral candidates.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that among those approached are people working in the judicial system and civil servants, including some people living in towns whose mayors were not dismissed.

Negotiations between the civilian administration and the Nabulus Chamber of Commerce on the reopening of five shops closed during the riots last month have been called off. Our correspondent has learned that the Chamber of Commerce had appealed to the civilian administration to reopen them but the administration posed many demands, the main one being that an official reception be held for Menahem Milson. The head of the civilian administration had been received by the Chamber of Commerce after assuming his post.

GAZA MAYOR COMPLAINS OF HARASSMENT BY AUTHORITIES

TA242054 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1955 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Gaza, 24 May -- Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa has closed his orange packing plant and has dismissed its 250 workers, claiming he was forced to take this step in the wake of harassment by Israeli authorities.

Ash-Shawwa told the ITIM correspondent in the Gaza District the authorities have been exerting economic pressure on him so that he would voluntarily quit his post as mayor of Gaza. He added that trucks loaded with fruit crates packed at his plant and on their way to Jordan had been detained at the [Jordan River] bridges. Empty trucks returning from Jordan had also been detained for over 1 week at the bridges without justification.

Ash-Shawwa went on to say that he had ceased contacts with the civilian administration and, consequently, the Israeli administration -- according to him -- had ordered contractors employed by the Gaza municipality to stop work. According to the mayor of Gaza, the laying of sewer pipes from the (Rimal) neighborhood in Gaza to the central sewage plant in the southern part of the city was thus stopped. Two weeks ago a handwritten letter in broken Arabic, signed by "Kahana," "the village leagues" and "Israeli security," arrived at his home. In the letter, he "was asked" to stop all statements to the media against the Israeli administration or else he would be risking his life. A second letter in a similar style, although in a sharper tone, containing direct threats on his life arrived this week. Ash-Shawwa declared he would not quit in spite of the harrassment.

JORDAN LIMITS RECOGNITION OF W. BANK EXAMINATIONS

TA220836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] Jordan has informed the central Nabulus examination committee at the last moment that it will not recognize matriculation examinations given by such Judaea and Samaria educational institutions as teachers colleges and the Hebron Polytechnic. However, it will recognize examinations given by universities.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports this decision was first learned yesterday and the students who heard about it became very upset. Many of them had hoped to pursue their studies at universities in Arab countries next year, but it now appears 2 school years have been wasted. The reason for this decision may be to prevent Palestinian students from flooding Amman.

Our correspondent has also learned that Jordan is encouraging Palestinian employees to return to the territories. In many cases their work permits are not renewed when they expire and others cannot get an extension on their permit to remain in the country.

PEACE NOW MOVEMENT PROTESTS TERRITORIES POLICY

TA211859 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] A week-long protest vigil ended today at Tel Aviv's Malkhe Yisra'el Square in which members of the Peace Now movement collected signatures of passersby on a petition protesting the Cabinet's policy in the territories. Our correspondent Menashe Raz reports that some 10,000 people signed.

At a rally marking the end of the vigil, Reserve Maj Beni Barabash said the movement's activity in this sphere has already brought about some positive results and added the defense establishment takes a serious view of the arguments raised by the movement's members. He noted that last week there were no incidents in Judaea, Samaria or the Gaza District that resulted in deaths.

ID NUMBERS TO BE GIVEN TO GOLAN DRUZE BABIES

TA201316 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] The Interior Ministry has instructed all hospitals in the north to give identification numbers to all newborn Druze on the Golan even if the mothers do not have identification cards. This has been reported by our correspondent Yo'el Dar.

DRUZE LEADER AGREES TO CONTINUE MEDIATION EFFORTS

TA210921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] The spiritual leader of the Israeli Druze, Shaykh Amin Tarif, has agreed to continue his mediation efforts to settle the crisis with his fellow Druze on the Golan Heights. In a letter to the prime minister, Shaykh Tarif asked Mr Begin to take into consideration the special situation of the Golan Druze, to meet them halfway in their request to receive special identification cards and to make it clear to them that there is no intention to recruit them into the IDF or to expropriate their land. According to Shaykh Tarif, the strike will be called off if the government agrees to these requests.

GOLAN DRUZE FACTORY WORKERS TO RETURN TO WORK

TA231224 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 May 82 p 3

[Excerpt] Many Druze workers who are employed in the north and who have stayed away from their jobs for the past 14 weeks, as part of the general strike in the Druze villages on the Golan Heights, announced yesterday to Golan Druze religious leader Shaykh Salman Tahir their decision to end the strike and return to work today.

Similar announcements were made by shopowners and other merchants whose businesses have been closed since the general strike was declared in the Golan Hieghts 14 weeks ago.

Yesterday many Druze workers came to the home of Shaykh Tahir in Majdal Shams and sought permission to return to work. They explained that persistent rumors had spread on the Golan Hieghts about funds being channeled for the support of the strikers from sources in the PLO and the oil states and even on behalf of the Committee for Solidarity with the Golan Druze, associated with RAKAH.

The workers told the shaykh: "Everyone here is talking about large sums that are flowing to the Golan Heights, but we have not seen or even caught whiff of them. We must worry about supporting our families. Striking day-laborers must be given financial support, or we will all return to our jobs Sunday morning."

Shaykh Tahir had no clear reply regarding the "large sums" being channeled as it were onto the Golan Hieghts, and therefore the workers -- who had been hired as day-laborers in various factories in the north until the beginning of the strike -- decided to return to their jobs this morning. At this time it is unclear if there employers will accept them back, because in many cases the employers found replacements.

DRUZE CALL FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUTHORITIES

TA241932 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Druze notables on the Golan Heights have decided to intensify their strike to protest the refusal of Israeli authorities to negotiate directly with them. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that at a rally in Majdal Shams, it was decided that those persons who want to leave the villages must obtain special permission from religious leaders to do so.

POLICE CAR STONED IN GOLAN DRUZE VILLAGE

TA242105 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] A police patrol car was stoned this evening in the Druze village of Majdal Shams on the Golan Heights. No casualties have been reported. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports the stones were hurled from within a crowd of about 200 people who were on their way to a meeting of persons supporting the strike on the Golan Heights. This is the first incident on the Golan Hieghts in over 2 weeks.

Nine Druze Arrested

TA250530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] Nine Druze were arrested last night on the Golan Heights on suspicion of stoning a police patrol vehicle in Majdal Shams and threatening residents who wanted to go to work in the Galilee settlements. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports police forces in the area have been reinforced.

ALGERIA

STEADFASTNESS, CONFRONTATION FRONT MEETS

Ibrahimi Speaks

LD241548 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 82

[Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi speech at the opening meeting of foreign ministers of member-states of Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in Algiers on 24 May -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers, Algeria welcomes you after having lived through the painful incident of losing 14 of its best sons, our brothers and friends and persons dear to us, led by our brother Mohamed Ben Yahia. I ask you to bow your heads anew to pay homage to their souls.

Brothers, I welcome you to Algeria and express our pride in hosting this meeting of foreign ministers of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. Our meeting today assumes special importance in view of the serious events and extremely complicated developments being witnessed in the Arab and international arenas. It is inevitable that these issues should be deliberated and the method of dealing with them should be discussed; we should debate what should be done with regard to these issues.

Our front occupies a major position in the struggle against Zionism and imperialism. It has shouldered its responsibilities in defending our fateful cause and our nation's rights and pan-Arab interests; it has achieved relative victories. Today, by virture of its commitments, it finds itself called upon to shoulder new tasks, owing to the nature of the current phase in which the forces hostile to our nation are making every effort to remove from the Arab will the elements of struggle, resistance and steadfastness. It is clear Zionism and imperialism today are doubling their hostile activities in several areas of the Arab homeland in an aim to halt the struggle of this homeland's peoples and to tighten their grip on the countries of this homeland and to tie these countries to the wheel of their influence and domination. Within this framework are the attempts currently being made to salvage the Camp David policy and to distract attention once more from the key to the conflict in the Middle East and from the settlement of thr real issues in the region, manifested in the continuation of Israel's aggression against the Palestinian people and Israel 's continuing occupation of the Arab territories.

Brothers, the enemies of the Arab nation are using whatever weapons they have to compel the Arab nation to abandon its just struggle and weaken its resistance and to compel it to accept false solutions to its fateful issue. Thus, Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai is being used to call for an abandonment of the struggle and to distract attention to marginal battles instead of concentrating efforts on the continuation of the real battle -- the battle to meet the aspirations of the Palestinian people and to liberate the Arab territories from Zionist aggression and imperialist domination.

Our differences with the Camp David policy, brothers, are basic and essential differences and not transitional differences dictated by incidental circumstances. In fact, our attitude toward this policy is a principled attitude because we stand by the struggle of the Palestinian people and their just cause. We believe that the reasons that led to the rejection of this policy still exist in view of the fact that this policy basically contradicts our nation's rights, interests and the aspirations of this nation's peoples for liberation, progress and unity. Imperialism and Zionism continuously are working to break up the unity of the Arab nation with regard to its fateful issue and shake this nation's conviction in its capabilities and means to achieve its aims and be the master of its own destiny. Thus, the task of dominating this nation and hindering its awakening becomes easy.

Within this framework, both imperialism and Zionism today are working to develop the means to tighten their control, using military bases, as in the case of Morocco, and finding centers to launch the so-called rapid deployment force which is a flagrant aggression on the sovereignty of states and on the freedom of peoples. Also, brothers, we see attempts by the enemies of our nation to strike at Arab-African solidarity to pressure us to abandon the principles of this solidarity, the inheritance of longstanding historical bonds and ties, and to abandon the long common struggle that brought together the peoples of the African Continent and of the Arab homeland and united them in their aspirations, hopes and aims.

We condemn the decision by the Republic of Zaire to resume relations with the Zionist entity and regard this decision as a departure from the unanimity of the African Continent in support of the Palestinian people's struggle and its just cause. This is incompatible with the common will to establish fruitful and solid cooperation leading to the building of the edifice of modern Arab-African advancement. Also, we regard continuation of the aggression on the fraternal Saharan people and pursuit of a policy of deceit as falling within the framework of an imperialist plan seeking to attack the Arab Maghreb in a new sphere of colonialism and imperialist domination.

Also, the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war is an attrition of gigantic proportions and damages vast resources that should be deployed and concentrated in the just common battle against Zionism and imperialism, a matter which could bring about a fundamental change in the balance of forces in the region in the interest of our nation.

Brothers, we meet at a time when towns of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights are witnessing raging popular uprisings and a new start by the Palestinian resistance movement. They reaffirm the vitality of the Palestinian people, its ability to struggle and make sacrifices and its resolve to fulfill its own destiny and national aspirations. The Arab masses have proved their readiness to continue their just battle against aggression, occupation and false solutions. Through this uprising, the world has become more convinced that these masses do not accept an alternative to their freedom, sovereignty and national rights and they are demanding the consolidation of their struggle and the concentration of all forces to achieve these aims. The events taking place in the occupied Arab territories register another shining page for our nation. Our states should participate in providing the elements necessary to continue this valiant resistance. I am confident our meeting will lead to tangible results consolidating the position of our nation in its struggle against Zionism and imperialism, bolstering the solidarity around the resistance and consolidating the foundations of our struggling front. Peace be with you.

Communique Issued

LD242340 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpts] Meeting in extraordinary session today in Algiers, the foreign ministers of the countries of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front began talks on means of counteracting recent attempts at rapprochement between the moderate Arab states and Egypt.

The final communique of the political committee of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front lists 11 recommendations. The Algiers meeting, held in two sessions this morning and afternoon, thus ended with a final communique in which the five foreign ministers of the front countries define their stand on recent developments in the Arab world.

The first recommendation calls on Arab countries to remain loyal to the resolutions of the Baghdad summit which particularly called on Arab countries to break off relations with the Egyptian regime following the Camp David agreements. Thus, this first recommendation calls on patriotic forces of the Arab (?family) to confront the maneuvers arising from these agreements and aimed at generalizing capitulation to the whole Arab world. The front thus is asking Arab countries to fight the American-Zionist strategic plan that aims to establish a strategic axis [words indistinct], just as it asks them to (?resist) all forms of imperialism, particularly military, and which currently assume the form of establishing military bases (?by agreement) with certain Arab coungries -- Egypt, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan and (?Oman). These military agreements, the final communique says, also are intended to help in the transit of imperialist-Zionist forces over land, sea and air (?so that) the United States can consolidate its hegemonist plans.

In its third recommendation, the front greets the popular uprisings in the occupied Arab lands and commits itself to giving varied aid to the Palestinian people to pursue the resistance [passage indistinct].

In its other recommendations, the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front condemns the holding of the Council of Europe meeting in Jerusalem, as it condemns Zaire and Costa Rica for renewing their diplomatic links with Israel.

Concerning the Iraq-Iran conflict, the front rejects all maneuvers aimed at enlarging the war and introducing other parties into it. These maneuvers are aimed at justifying the Camp David agreements [words indistinct] the Egyptian regime, and at enlarging Camp David [words indistinct] involving the region entirely in a deadly war and with secondary aims that will benefit only the Zionist enemy and imperialist forces. The political committee calls for the consolidation of relations with the friendly Iranian revolution.

The committee also expresses its deep concern over the continuation of the war in Western Sahara and calls for an end to hostilities. The committee also emphasized thae front's great esteem for the friendly stand of the socialist states, primarily the Soviet Union, all nonaligned countries, African and Islamic, for the Arab and Palestinian cause.

Finally, the foreign minister decided to place on the agenda for the next front summit the establishment of permanent front institutions, created at a preceding summit;

Qaddumi Comments

NC242205 Paris AFP in English 2155 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Algiers, 24 May (AFP) -- A summit of the Arab steadfastness front will be held in June, Palestine Liberation Organization Political Chief Faruq Qaddumi announced here today.

Mr Qaddumi made the comment following a one-day meeting of foreign ministers of the front, which groups Algeria, Libya, Syria, South Yemen and the PLO.

The date of the summit, reportedly to be held in Algiers, has not yet been fixed.

Concluding their meeting here, the foreign ministers adopted an 11-point resolution aimed against the possible reintegration of Egypt into the Arab fold.

LIBYA

CHAD'S GOUKOUNI OUEDDEI DEPARTS 24 MAY

LD241314 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Guokouni Oueddei, president of Chad and head of the Transitional National Union Government, left Tripoli today. He was seen off by Brig 'Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, members of the general people's committee and a number of army officers.

'NEUTRAL ATTITUDE' TOWARD CHAD CONFIRMED

LD241834 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Tripoli, 24 May (JANA) -- The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stressed that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is committed to the neutral attitude it has adopted toward Chad. A responsible source in the bureau stated that in accordance with its neutral attitude, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is committed not to interfere in the struggle taking place in Chad and will not send any forces there. The source added that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is committed to the resolutions adopted by the basic people's congresses regarding social and economic aid to the fraternal people of Chad.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI SPEAKS ON REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

JN242050 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Khartoum, 24 May (SUNA) -- On the anniversary of the 13 May revolution, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri this evening delivered the following speech at a joint meeting of the SSU preparatory committee, the People's Assembly and the leaders of the national action:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother free revolutionaries: It gives me great pleasure to address your meeting on this beloved day, the anniversary of the glorious 13 May revolution. It is a good omen that this anniversary takes place while Sudan is proceeding with firm steps and gushing enthusiasm on the road to building the final stages of the regional rule.

On the anniversary of the May revolution, we must comtemplate with pride the revolution's achievement, struggles and the triumphs it scored in building the new Sudan, the Sudan of unity, the Sundan of democracy and the Sudan of socialism. We also must keep in mind the deep meanings and the great significance that regional rule has. We also must keep in mind the meaning of national unity and of a genuine democracy based on participation in power and the delegation of responsibilities and a real regional rule. We must keep in mind, too, the meaning of socialism, which stipulates that all Sudanese citizens must equitably share in the country's resources in a balanced way in all the regions.

While I address this joint meeting on the 13th anniversary of the glorious May revolution, I feel it appropriate to say a few words on the new political action course and experiment. As evidence by the open dialogue in the popular committee, the experiment has shown that our basic choices are sound. There will be no back on the formula of alliance and that of the one open grouping. Nevertheless, we will continue to develop and attain advanced standards in our action, methods and performance.

On the May revolution anniversary, we renew our pledge to remain loyal to the principles of Arab unity and solidarity. We reiterate our readiness to offer all that is dear to us for the sake of restoring unity and solidarity and put aside divisions and rivalry among the Arab brothers. Let us ask ourselves: What have the Arabs gained from boycotting Egypt, trying to exhaust Egypt and weakening Egypt? Let us look at the bitter experience and how fragmentation and differences have brought destruction to Lebanon. Look at how Iran is threatening the Arab character of the Gulf and its stability. Look at the arrogant and intransigent conditions for a cease-fire and the shedding of Muslim blood. Fore those colluding, it is not acceptable for Egypt to escape from their siege unless it is exhausted by isolation and boycott. They also will not accept Iraq escaping from their siege so that they can deal separately with the Gulf, burn it and destroy it as they have burned and destroyed Lebanon.

The Sudanese people call on the Arab nation to expose the traps of seditions and collaboration, not to allow Iraq to be exhausted or Egypt to be encircled or isolated for if Iraq is exhausted and its voice quelled, the stability and balance will be gravely affected and the fires of sedition and fanaticism will be fanned. The Arabs' enemies want Egypt to be isolated, its capabilities chained and any influence it can have paralyzed, thus removing Egypt from its fateful role, separating it from its destiny and affiliation.

Brothers, we must not think Arab solidarity can exist only when there is identity of views. It is not permissible to put as conditions for Arab solidarity the elimination of all differences and the settlement of all accounts. If consciences become free of the fever of rivalry and intransigent fanaticism, then one can calmly seek the basic factors for joint Arab action and one can really progress toward an effective Arab solidarity with which the Arab nation will regain its prestige, capability, influence and rights. Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' initiative represents a sound nucleus for achieving this, given the positive and constructive elements it contains.

Brother free revolutionaries, let our new year be one of work and production, a year of struggle and offerings. We ask God to make this year good and prosperous. Be patient, stand fast and struggle because wishes do not come by easily but must be fought for.

MINISTER RECEIVES ROMANIA'S ION NICOLAE

JN201546 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA) -- Lt Gen Fathi 'Umar Abu al-Hasan, minister of state for defense affairs [title as received], this morning received Ion Nicolae, Romanian first deputy minister for foreign trade and international economic cooperation, and discussed means of strengthening Sudanese-Romanian joint cooperation in the armed forces' equipment requirements. They also discussed means of promoting activities of the armed forces military economic commission and an exchange of expertise and dealings between the commission and Romanian military corporations.

ETHIOPIA

PDRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR ADEN AGREEMENT MEETING

EA220036 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 21 May 82

[Excerpts] Comrade Muhammad 'Abd al-Qawi, PDRY information minister, arrived in Addis Ababa today to attend the forthcoming meeting of the countries signatory to the Aden agreement.

On arrival in Addis Ababa, Comrade Muhammad 'Abd al-Qawi was welcomed by Comrade Yilma Girma, minister of information and national guidance and member of the Central Committee of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia, officials from the ministry and officials from the PDRY Embassy in Socialist Ethiopia.

MENGISTU NOTES NEED TO LIBERATE SOUTH AFRICA

EA242148 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Africans not only should promote cooperation among our countries but should always be alert and ready to foil attempts to disrupt our unity and destroy our continental organization, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam said.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia and chief of the revolutionary army, said this in a message marking the 19th anniversary of the signing of the OAU Charter and the declaration of Africa Day. In his message, Comrade Chairman Mengistu said Africa has no choice but to fight agianst those who try to disrupt our unity in view of the problems now facing the continent.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu also reiterated Ethiopia's firm support for the liberation of Africa, the OAU Charter and the Lagos plan of action.

The PMAC chairman noted that significant strides have been made during these years toward the eradication of colonialism, racial domination and subjugation. He added, however, that Africa has yet to witness the liberation of Namibia and South Africa. He said the terrorist regime in Pretoria continues to dehumanize our brothers in South Africa and illegally occupies Namibia in definance of all decisions, the greatest challenge to all Africans.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that, in defiance of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence, the imperialist powers are now ready to impose an electoral system alien to the country and that Pretoria's allies are trying to legalize the existence of puppet groups. This is aimed at ensuring that the White settlers hold power and can maintain their neocolonial interests in Namibia. He added that Africans are freedom- and peace-loving and should bravely face the situation. Comrade Chairman Mengistu said the attacks on Angola by racist South Africa are annoying and the invasion of the Seychelles by mercenaries employed by South Africa and its allies is disheartening.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said independent Africa is dutybound to increase all-round assistance to SWAPO on Namibia, to the African National Congress of South Africa and to the frontline states. He said failure in this most sacred duty would not only be a betrayal of [words indistinct] of Africa, still in the trenches of armed struggle, but also an enouragement to the archenemies of Africa to play haovc with our hard-won independence.

KENYA

VICE PRESIDENT ON ODINGA EXPULSION FROM KANU

EA211722 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] The vice president and minister for home affairs, Mr Mwai Kibaki, said today that the decision made by President Moi to expel Oginga Odinga from the ruling party KANU was final, and was not subject to any debate.

Addressing a press conference in his office, Mr Kibaki asid that Mr Odinga had totally rejected the strategies, philosophy and ideology pursued by the KANU government, and he could not therefore fit into a system he had condemned.

He noted that at one time Mr Odinga deserted from the party and formed his own opposition party. Mr Kibaki pointed out that the recent press conference addressed by Mr Odinga in London showed clearly that he had no respect whatsoever in the government system in Kenya. He also noted that a statement issued by Odinga during the last OAU summit was not impromptu, but a well considered and written piece.

The vice president explained that the statement had intentions of fighting the present system of government and institutions through which government strategies were carried out.

Mr Kibaki said that when Kenya became independent, the KANU manifesto chose African socialism, well propounded in sessional paper No 10 of 1965, as the guiding ideology and rejected the communist strategy. He explained that the Government of Kenya believed in social democracy and that income accruing would be for the social welfare of the citizens. As the economy continues to grow, said Mr Kibaki, the government would in future provide all the social services that were freely available to the citizens. Our welfare state will also be built, he said.

Mr Kibaki finally called on Kenyans to continue rallying behind His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi and implement KANU decisions on nation building.

CAMEROON

IRANIAN VISITORS OPPOSE NONALIGNED SUMMIT IN IRAQ

AB250738 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] A large Iranian delegation yesterday was received in audience by Prime Minister Paul Biya. The leader of the delegation, (Mohammad Ali), also senior adviser of the Iranian foreign minister, said the delegation brings a message from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to President Ahidjo. The message concerns the summit conference of the nonaligned countries to take place in Baghdad next November.

After the audience, the Iranians said this summit should not take place in Baghdad because Iraq has violated the fundamental principles of nonalignment. They therefore asked Cameroon not to take part in the summit.

Concerning the war between Iran and Iraq, the leader of the delegation said it will not end even if the Iranians recover their territory being occupied by Iraq. He said Iraq will have to pay damages to Iran. He added that Iraq should be tried by an international court and that the regime in Baghdad should be overthrown.

CHAD

GOUKOUNI RETURNS HOME; OTHERS STAY IN TRIPOLI

AB241617 Paris AFP in French 1557 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 24 May (AFP) -- The chairman of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], Goukouni Oueddei, returned to Ndjamena on Monday from Tripoli (Libya) where he paid a 24-hour visit.

Defense Minister Adoum Togoi, who accompanied the GUNT chairman, remained in Tripoli to "settle some issues" which motivated Goukouni's visit to Libya, informed sources at the Chadian presidency pointed out.

Interior Minister Mahamat Abba Said and National Education Minister Achiekh ibn Oumar, who went to Tripoli before the Chadian president, also are continuing their "mission" to the Libyan capital.

President Goukouni held talks in Tripoli with several Libyan officials, particularly the commander in chief of the Libyan Army.

Sources Comment on Visit

AB241553 Paris AFP in French 1412 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 24 May (AFP) -- According to informed sources in Ndjamena on Monday, the head of the Chadian Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], Goukouni Oueddei, who just made a lightning visit to Tripoli, may have solicited financial and material aid from the Libyan authorities to face the political and military situation in Ndjamena.

On the other hand, the same sources said, it is out of the question that President Goukouni asked Libya to send troops to Chad as the decision on such an issue would have to be made unanimously by the GUNT and the Council of State, in accordance with the provisions of the "Ndjamena declaration" of 8 May 1982. However, it was pointed out in the Chadian capital, the Council of State has "never debated that issued."

Goukouni Oueddei's visit to Libya came just as it was learned from military sources that Hissein Habre's FAN had seized Moussoro, a district about 300 km north of Ndjamena. The GUNT chairman was preceded to Tripoli by Chadian Interior Minister Mahamat Abba Said and National Education Minister Achiekh ibn Oumar, two influential members of the Frolinat.

ZAIRE

ENVOY SAYS EMBASSY WILL BE LOCATED IN TEL AVIV

PM211459 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 May 82 p 5

[Text] In a statement published on 19 May, the Zairian Embassy in Paris says Zaire never said or decided that it would situate its embassy in Jerusalem after the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel. According to the embassy statement, the Zairian Government's decision on the Near East contains only three points: "the recall of recognition of the Palestinian people's right to have a sovereign state; maintenance of Zaire's recognition in 1975 of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole representative and the resumption of normal diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. No other decision on the Middle East has been made. Any statement is pure speculation." In addition, the Zairian ambassador in Brussels stated: "There is no question of the embassy being in Jerusalem. It will be in Tel Aviv."

AZAP REPORTS MOBUTU REACTION TO ARAB CRITICISM

AB211308 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0845 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 20 May (AZAP) -- Since 14 May, when Zaire announced its resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel, there has not been a single day when we have not recorded reactions to Zaire's decision, unfavorable reactions concerning the exercise of our country's sovereignty.

Until now, there has been no response on from the authorities or the Zairian press. In fact, the president of the Republic of Zaire asked the press to refrain from polemics with foreign media and organizations which disapprove of Zaire's initiative. However, agitations abroad over this initiative have taken on such a vulgar tone of intoxication, likely to mislead public opinion in the Third World and in Africa, that we are forced to reply in order to give the facts and principles their true dimensions and real significance.

That is why, immediately after his return from Gemana where he attended the ceremony marking the 11th anniversary of his mother's death, the head of state summoned to his Camp Tshatshi residence the (director general) of Azap, Citizen Kande Dzambulate, to tell him what he thinks about all the reactions to our decision to resume diplomatic relations with Israel. To the president of the Republic of Zaire, no state in the world has the right to prevent Zaire, a free and sovereign state, from freely shaping its foreign policy, thus exercising fully its national and international sovereignty.

That is why on 4 October 1973, at the United Nations, this sovereignty was publicly and solemnly proclaimed when, through the voice of their president, the Zairian people decided to sever relations with Tel Aviv. This sovereign decision was dictated by the fact that the African land of Egypt, I repeat the African land of Egypt, was occupied by the Jewish state. In reaction against this occupation of a part of African land, Zaire decided unilaterally then -- unilaterally and publicly -- to break with Israel.

International opinion will recall that, at any time, we made it clear that as long as Israel continued to occupy the African land of Egypt and flout the dignity and the right of African people on their own soil, this break would continue.

At that time, Zaire was highly praised not only for its political sense and the shrewedness of its analysis, but also for the courage and foresight of its leader. But since 25 April, following the same logic and consistency, Zaire has noted through the voice of its head of state that the reasons for breaking relations with Israel are no longer valid since there is no more Jewish occupation of the African land of Egypt, which has recovered its land. It also will be noted that when Zaire took that historic position in 1973, it did not mention Arab land, but African land of Egypt, which happens to be an Arab state. This should be clearly emphasized.

Therefore, Zaire cannot help but deplore the reactions in African capitals after its decisions to restore diplomatic relations with Israel. So much guile and pure cowardice coupled with inconsistency cannot bring anybody to take Africa seriously -- this poor Africa which is not considered and which does not know whether to choose the carrot or the stick; whether to accept carrots or mash, or to choose between the pest and the Cholera. Zaire feels sad to note the pureile assurance of all those who in the past shouted against colonialism and neocolonialism whenever any Western country's attitude smacked of the least interference in the internal affairs of any country, but which today in the face of massive interference of the Arabs in the politics of a sovereign state have nothing to say, but only follow the leader of the slave caravan with his whip and turban.

Did we fight European colonialism and neocolonialism in the past only to stick out our necks today to the yoke of Arab neoslavery? Did we stand out against formidable embassies of industrial powers only to tremble today before the intimidation and pressures from turbaned envoys scouring Black Africa? Is it good for any worthy son of Africa, a sovereign state, to accept the shoddy dealings proposed under the guise of Afro-Arab solidarity, that has been filling our ears since 25 April?

In any case, what sort of solidarity is this? The Zairian people are no fools. From the reactions received, we now know that Afro-Arab solidarity is bait, a fool's trap. In fact, this solidarity is the politics of the locomotive and the railway cars they want to impose on us, the Arab countries being the locomotive and we the cars. In such relations, we will have no initiative: when the locomotive stops, the cars stop. And when the locomotive moves again, the cars blindly line up behind it on the rails. It should be made clear to those who still have any illusion on this point that Zaire is not a railway car. We have proved this in the recent past when American aid was not able to sway us.

The disgraceful petrodollar maneuvers initiated can no longer be successful, for Zaire's policies are not linked to the oil barrel. Zaire is saying this loudly, while others are struggling with it in their minds and do not have the courage to express it.

Those people should not forget that the Arab "reprisals" against what they consider an attack on their interests is, curiously enough, only directed against a Black country. All over the world, quite a number of countries keep both the goat and the cabbage: They keep the Jewish cabbage as well as the Arab goat without being "sanctioned." On the contrary, the Arabs pour huge amounts of their petrodollars there and undertake gigantic investments; they build or buy hotels, palaces and castles and establish (?businesses) and so forth. As far as we know, the good relations these countries continue to maintain with Israel -- by selling their weapons or other military hardware there -- have never aroused the slightest protest or raised eyebrow on the part of the Arabs, whether from the Gulf or elsewhere. On the other hand, as soon as a Black country stands up to affirm its independence they respond with a slave-master attitude and declare a holy war. We find it difficult to understand that all the countries of the world have the right to cooperate freely with whoever they choose, including Israel, with the exception of Black African countries. If that is what is called Arab-African solidarity, then Zaire says "no" to what it can only describe as a masquerade and gigantic fools' market. One day -- probably far in the future, but one day at least -- the peoples of Africa will finally prove Zaire right: Zaire, which today as yesterday does not fear to be alone in saying aloud what all the others think to themselves, come what may!

GHANA

PNDC SECRETARY SAYS LEADERS MAKE SACRIFICES

AB230756 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] The secretary to the Provisonal National Defense Council, Mr Benjamin Asamoah, has said the country's present leadership is making sacrifices which leaders in the past 25 years failed to make to improve the lot of Ghanaians. He did not give details but said that solutions to national problems lies in hard work and honesty on the part of all Ghanaians, especially public officials who helped to destory the nation and pile up debt after the (?departure) of the colonial power.

Mr Asamoah was speaking at a rally organized by the people's defense committee of (Fiase), near Legon. He stressed that those who enrich themselves at the expense of the state will be dealt with in a revolutionary manner when identified. Mr Asamoah asked Ghanaians to reassert their cultural and traditional values since this will help them understand and find solutions to their problems. They should also rededicate themselves to the (?edification) of chieftancy and recognize the wisdom of elders in the society.

IVORY COAST

FRENCH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND DEPARTS 24 MAY

AB241959 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpt] At the end of a 3-day official visit to our country, the French head of state, Francois Mitterrand, left Yamoussoukro this morning for Dakar, last leg of his African tour.

NIGERIA

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH BELIZE

AB241747 Lagos NAN in English 1740 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpt] Lagos, 24 May (NAN) -- Nigeria has become the first African country to establish diplomatic relations with the newly independent state of Belize.

The country's non-resident high commissioner, Dr Peter Onyige, has presented his letters of credence to the Belize Governor-General Dr Minita Gordon, in Belmopan.

At the ceremony, Dr. Onyige, who is also Nigeria's ambassador to Mexico recalled that the country was represented at Belize independence celebrations. He expressed Nigeria's desire to maintain close and cordial relations with Belize despite he geographical distance and the absence of previous contacts.

Dr. Onyige also spoke of the similarities between the two countries culturally and as developing nations.

ADVANCE PARTY REGISTERS WITH COMMISSION

AB241537 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] The Nigeria Advance Party, NAP, has been registered as a political party by the Federal Electoral Commission, Fedeco.

A statement by the executive secretary, Alhaji Saidu, in Lagos today said the Nigeria Advance Party, NAP, was the only party out of seven associations which fulfilled all the conditions for registration. He stated that Fedeco was satisfied with the performance of all the five registered political parties and has, therefore, renewed their registration. And during its recent meeting in Lagos, Fedeco deliberated on the various aspects of the arrangements for the revision of the voters register and approved the policy guideline for the execution of the program.

SENEGAL

PRESIDENT DIOUF WELCOMES MITTERRAND 24 MAY

AB241344 Paris AFP in French 1238 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Dakar, 24 May (AFP) -- France is "the natural link" between Europe and Africa, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf stated on Monday while welcoming to Dakar the French president and Mrs Danielle Mitterrand.

After stressing the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries and the privileged cooperation between them, the Senegalese head of state said he will examine with his guest "burning problems agitating the world."

Abdou Diouf also emphasized the confidence he has in President Mitterrand, "a friend of our continent and of the Third World in general."

The French head of state, hailed the very long standing relations between the French and Senegalese peoples and said his visit marks "an ideal community and friendly understanding between them."

France and Senegal, he said, "have mingled their blood and culture for better and for worse, and it is a source of great satisfaction and even pride for me that the assertion of Senegal's personality is not done to the detriment of our long standing friendship."

"I am sure our meeting will further tighten everything that unites us," the French president concluded.

Presidential Talks Held

AB242038 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpt] The first face-to-face talks between Presidents Abdou Diouf and Francois Mitterrand were held this afternoon at the presidency of the republic.

President Abdou Diouf said he will hold talks with his French counterpart on international issues, particularly on cooperation between France and Senegal and ways to strengthen this cooperation.

As for the ministers, a statement from the Foreign Ministry said Moustapha Niasse also received this afternoon the French minister for cooperation and development, Jean-Pierre Cot.

Mitterrand Speaks in Saint-Louis

AB251021 Paris AFP in French 1014 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] Dakar, 25 May (AFP) -- French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Saint-Louis, the former capital of Senegal, at 0950 GMT on Tuesday in the company of Senegalese head of state Abdou Diouf.

He was met at the airport by Andre Guillabert, member of Parliament and mayor of Saint-Louis, and El Hadj Malick Ba, governor of the "Region du Fleuve."

The two heads of state and their entourage immediately went to the Saint-Louis government house where the French president delivered a speech.

POLICE BREAK UP ANTI-FRANCE PRESS CONFERENCE

AB242140 Paris AFP in French 1853 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Dakar, 24 May (AFP) -- Senegalese police on Monday afternoon interrupted a press conference held by Ahmed Khalifa Niasse, the Senegalese religious fanatic opposed to the present regime, who believes in the creation of the Islamic republic of Senegal and who is known as the "ayatollah of Kaolack".

The press conference, which was apparently unauthorized, was held at the Croix du Sud Hotel near the monument for the dead in Dakar, where President Mitterrand was to lay a wreath an hour later.

Before answering questions by the Senegalese and international press, whom he had invited to the conference, Niasse condemned French presence in Senegal and Africa. He threatened, particularly, to take reprisals against the French in Senegal -- whom he accused of "gnawing at the country's staggering economy -- if French troops continued their "occupation." Mr Niasse said he does not exclude the need for "armed struggle" in putting an end to French presence in Senegal.

When asked by the hotel manager to stop attacking France and to stop his press conference, Niasse vehemently protested as did his supporters who had gathered in the "Allaho Akbar" (God Is Great) Hall. Mr Niasse and two of his lieutenants, one of whom is his brother, then burned three small French flags.

Police intervened and, after blocking all hotel exits, arrested the Senegalese religious fanatic, his supporters and representatives of Senegalese opposition parties invited to the press conference. They were all taken to the police station.

LESOTHO

AGRICULTURE MINISTER INJURED IN AMBUSH 23 MAY

LD231212 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] The motorcar in which the Lesotho minister of agriculture, Mr Peete N. Peete, was traveling, was ambushed early this morning during a journey to the Berea District. The ambush took place when Chief Peete slowed down to help a woman who appeared to be in distress. Shots were fired by an unknown number of people and the chief's car was riddled with bullets. Chief Peete and the other occupants of the war were wounded, but their condition is not known at this stage. Chief Peete's mother and a young girl, Miss (Ulassi Sussan), were shot in the head and they are in a serious condition in the Maseru hospital. A third woman in the car, Mrs (Matoko Toko) was also wounded, but her condition is also not known at this stage.

NAMIBIA

COUNCIL WILL ABOLISH RSA-RELATED HOLIDAYS

AB241806 Paris AFP in English 1756 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] Windhoek, 24 May (AFP) -- Public holidays commemorating events of cultural or historical interest to South Africa will be abolished as of next year, the Namibian Ministers Council has ruled.

Council member Ben Africa said in a statement today that the holidays which would be abolished would be Republic Day (celebrating the day South Africa became a republic), Settlers' Day (commemorating the arrival of settlers in South Africa), Kruger Day (in remembrance of President Paul Kruger), and Day of the Covenant, for the Boers win at the battle of Blood River. Mr Africa said the South African holidays would be replaced by three public holidays known as Pioneers' Day, the Day of Unity and the Day of Good Will. South African public holidays were unacceptable to many people in Namibia, he said.

SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICIALS ON REPORTED ARMS SALES TO ARGENTINA

Foreign Affairs Spokesman

LD241702 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] A spokesman for the South African Department of Foreign Affairs has declined to comment on reports that South Africa is supplying arms to Argentina to use against British soldiers and the navy in the Falklands dispute. The spokesman said in Cape Town that it was a matter of principle to South Africa not to supply information on arms transactions. The spokesman pointed out that Britain had imposed an arms boycott against South Africa, thereby compelling the country to manufacture its own weapons and to engage in programs and actions in accordance with international contractual obligations. Should South Africa impose a boycott on any other country, its credibility would be threatened and there would no longer be any confidence in its ability to meet contractual obligations.

The spokesman has declined to comment on reports that a British source has requested specialized aircraft parts from South Africa. While declining to confirm or deny the report, he did say that South Africa had informed Britain that two Soviet espionage aircraft, normally stationed in Angola, were keeping the British fleet off the Falklands under surveillance.

The spokesman also said that South Africa has assured Britain that it would not supply Exocet missiles to Argentina. The assurance was given in spite of the principle of no comment on such affairs and was given in the light of the emotional reaction on the scuttling of the British frigate, the Sheffield.

R. Botha, Malan Statements

LD242236 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpts] South Africa has taken a strong stand against reports that it is selling weapons including missiles to Argentina and against requests that it should either confirm or deny the reports. The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha says in a statement issued in Cape Town that the South African Government has consistently declined to confirm or deny reports about supplies. South Africa's interests demanded that this principle should not be violated. Accordingly, the government would neither confirm nor deny the existence of any contractual obligations with any specific country or any specific agency of any country. It should be clear to all that were the South African Government to undermine this principle the situation would eventually arise in which details would be disclosed of all arms supplies to and from South Africa. This, he said, could cause incalculable harm to the security of South Africa.

Mr Botha's statement follows reports in newspapers of the Argus group that South Africa is supplying arms to Argentina and that these are being loaded at D.F. Malan Airport near Cape Town.

The South African minister of defense, General Malan, said in Parliament that South Africa had not delivered missiles or spareparts for aircraft to Argentina [words indistinct] crisis. Replying to a question if South Africa had delivered the weapons to other South American countries from where [word indistinct] could have been [word indistinct] to Argentina, General Malan gave the assurance that this had in fact not taken place.

ZIMBABWE

MUNANGAGWE ON DISSIDENTS, MILITIA TRAINING

CA241224 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 May 82

[Text] The minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for security, Comrade Munangagwe, says dissident activities will be wiped out soon throughout the country. Addressing a rally at (Ligwezi) school in (?Zhombe) yesterday, Comrade Munangagwe said government forces have flushed out dissidents in the (Chinhoyi) and Gokwe areas and will now move [words indistinct] the minister charged that armed robberies are being carried out by dissident ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army] forces with the arms they received when they joined the liberation struggle.

Commenting on a recent statement made by the ZAPU leader, Mr Nkomo, in which he said only the police should deal with bandits, Comrade Munangagwe pointed out that the government will use whatever means at its disposal to ensure the safety of innocent people. The minister said a training camp for militia is due to be established in (?Vumba) area within the next few months to enable people to defend themselves.

Turning to local councillors, Comrade Munangagwe accused them of working to undermine the government by not building clinics, schools and good roads for the people. Speaking at the same rally, the other minister of state in the prime minister's office, Comrade Sekeremayi, said those who are going around saying Zimbabwe will achieve a second independence are mistaken.